

THE TABLOID

The nerd at No 1

THE TABLOID

The new cockney in couture



WEATHER: Wintry sunshine

(IR45p) 40p

**ANALYSIS** 

The failure to halt TB PAGE 12

# No new taxes? Read his lips

Brown pledge over rates leaves door open for future increases

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

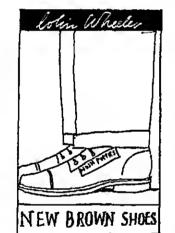
Gordon Brown yesterday ruled out any increase in the basic or top rates of income tax - or any extension of value-added tax - while leaving the hack door wide open for other tax

In a London speech designed to kill Labour's image as the tax-andspend party, the Shadow Chancel-lor said: 'A Labour government will not increase the basic rate of tax.

"It is because we understand the importance of work that there will be no return to penal marginal rates at the top. As a signal of the importance we attach to rewarding work, I want to make clear that I will not increase the top rate of tax."

Having confirmed the current basic rate of 23p in the pound and the top rate of 40p, Mr Brown repeated his hope of getting a new lower rate of 10p for low-earners.

But in a careful - and calculated escape clause, he also said: "I will not make blanket commitments on each and every one of more than 200 tax exemptions, reliefs and al-



nish charg

lowances in the system, before we know all the economic circumstances we will face, including the true state of the public finances."

A Conservative source said last L'.t that Mr Brown had closed off tax-raising options - out of 200 leaving the irresponsible impression that he was not planning to in-

crease the tax burden. That Conservative point was underlined by the fact that the present Government has repeatedly used tax allowances to squeeze more revenue out of the system. The rate of mortgage interest tax relief has been re-duced, tax relief for profit-related pay is being phased out, and the married couple's allowance was frozen in the 1991 Budget.

But the point was also made by a senior Labour source that while Mr Brown had provided reassurance about Labour plans for income tax rates - he had left himself the "flexibility" to increase taxes.

"He has not boxed himself in." The independent was told. "If he had

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The Tabloid

said there would be no change in tax. it would not have been credible."

The speech – in which Mr Brown confirmed that Labour would stick to Tory spending limits in its first year of office, and maintain curbs on public sector pay - triggered strong re-action from across the political

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said: "Hell will freeze before Gordon Brown could control spending and keep tax down.

"We know that New Labour have made pledges worth £30bn in the next Parliament. They have not withdrawn any of them. But time after time in this Parliament, New Labour have shown that they would increase spending and would have to put up taxes to pay for it."

Opposition parties, ranging from the Liberal Democrats 10 Plaid Cymru, also attacked the plans, dismissing them as "daft and irresponsible promises" and "punishing widows and pensioners". The Labour left-winger Ken Livingstone warned that Mr Brown might have to raise the top rate of tax to kill a consumer-led boom, and he said that 90 per cent of Labour MPs believed the tax system Mr Brown

planned to keep intact was unfair. Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, said: "If the Labour Party say what they mean and mean what they say, and are committed to real social justice, attention will have to be given to the low paid and this will inevitably include public service workers. We ask for no favours. We ask for fairness."

Labour, all public sector pay agreements must be financed from with-in the agreed departmental cash limits. Just as we will resist every other unreasonable demand on the public purse, we will resist unreasonable public sector pay demands."

He also promised "a comprehensive spending review that would take a long-term and strategic view of public spending - to shift the balance from consumption to investment, from welfare to education.

We reject the old Labour litmus test on spending," Mr Brown said; "that increasing the overall level of spending is proof of our socialist commitment.

As for the possibility of increas-ing taxes, Mr Brown said: "We must have a fair tax system that treats individuals in an equitable way: not toterating wide differences of treatment for individuals or companies in broadly similar circum-

"It also means fair treatment of men and women as individuals, and that over their lifetime individuals with similar incomes pay similar amounts of tax."

Mr Brown repeated Labour's commitment to a crack down on high earners "who abuse the tax system using scams, loopholes and dodges". Leading article, page 11 Donald Macintyre, page 13



Rising expectations: Gordon Brown (centre) in a lift on the way to give his speech yesterday

## Mr Responsibility he may be, but we could all still pay more

His speech made it clear, if anybody still doubted it, that responsibility is Gordon Brown's middle name. He wanted to hammer home once again the idea that new Labour is not going to tax more to spend more. Yesterday's dramatic announcement was his higgest hammerblow yet, leaving many observers reeling.

But could Labour deliver five years of government without any tax rises? Could any government? There was plenty of City scepticism about Mr Brown's pledge to stick to the current spending plans for this financial year and to the expenditure total already set for

Steven Bell, head of research at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "They are painting themselves into a corner. We have never even believed the Conservatives could keep to these spending plans." Pameta Meadowes, director of the Policy Studies Institute, said Labour were \*raising expectations about health and education which they will have an enormous amount of difficulty in satisfying if Mr Brown sticks to what he said

The City attributes Kenneth Clarke's success in meeting his spending targets er afterwards. for the last three years to the freezing of public sector pay - possible thanks Tories on tax in 1992, doing their cred- now... taxes will probably rise.



by Diane Coyle (Economics Editor)

to low inflation. Labour will find it very hard to deliver the same deal.

Given that the national deht has doubted under Mr Major's time as Prime Minister and the Government's plans to cut borrowing are already considered over-optimistic, many City experts think higher taxes are a near-certainty after the election.

Labour clearly cannot admit this logic and agree now that the government finances are in a mess. But Mr Brown is well aware of the danger of Labour promising something in the beat of the election campaign that it cannot deliv-

This was the trap that caught out the

ibility huge damage ever since. Yet now, five years on. Labour has made this new and dramatic pledge at a time when the public finances are in a precarious state and the current spending plans unrealistic. How does the Shadow Chancellor try to escape this dilemma?

The most important thing is that Mr Brown, despite the bold rhetoric, has not actually promised not to increase taxes if the public finances require it. There are other ways. Labour has ruled out neither reducing tax breaks such as mortgage interest tax relief, nor increasing company taxation.

To judge from the City reaction vesterday, few of Labour's old enemies in the financial markets query its underlying fiscal prudence. Indeed, many people in the markets now predict that the pound would fall if it looked like the Conservatives could snatch an election victory, because investors think Chancellor Brown would be more cautious in setting interest rates and government borrowing than Chancellor Clarke.

It is a thought to delight New Labour strategists. But there is another thought for the rest of us to chew over: unless there are serious spending cuts then, whoever wins, and whatever they say

QUICKLY

The Government was defeated

by a majority of 64 in the Lords

as peers backed a Labour move

to ensure prior authorisation of

police hugging by judicial com-

Andrew Mitchell, the social se-

curity minister and former whip.

denied before a Commons

committee that he tried to use

his influence as a whip to sub-

vert the inquiry into cash for

Christmas dinner is now the one

meal a year where many British

children get an adequate intake

of vegetables, according to

research for the Cancer Re-

search Campaign - because

children are bullying their

mothers into letting them eat

only what they want. Page 3

Hundreds of French bank em-

ployees have taken their boss

Bank hostage

Minister's denial

Junk and no veg

missioners.

questions.

Government defeat

#### Labour's loopholes

■ The shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown's pledges yesterday not to increase income tax during the lifetime of the first Labour parfiament left several loopholes for future tax increases.

■ While he also pledged not to extend the scope of value-added tax, he was careful to leave the way open for tax increases through the 200 tax exemptions, reliefs and allowances like mortgage interest tax relief.

■ He renewed the party's commitment to treat individuals in an equitable way, and to ensure that . the tax burden is based on an ability to pay, along with a crackdown on the minority of high-earners who abuse the system using "scams, loopholes and dodges".

Mr Brown also threatened specific action against wealthy individuals who avoid paying tax on estates worth more than £1m, and companies making billions who escape their fair share of tax by using offshore tax havens.

Photograph: Brian Harris

#### THE INDY EIGHT

# Send a baby box to Bosnia this winter

Disinfectant, nappies, washing materials – not what you'd think of giving someone. But for an impoverished mother in Bosnia trying to keep her child safe from infection. the basic essentials inside one of our baby boxes would mean the world. Children's Aid Direct will deliver your box directly into the hands of mothers in Bosnia many of whom will be living in war-damaged housing in very basic conditions this winter.

Please send a baby box to Bosnia this winter - and help a



## With love from a friend.

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I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_ Children's Aid Direct

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Expiry date / Signature

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If you would like to send a message to a Bastrian mother, please send it with your donation and we will put

mother keep her baby safe.

## Call 8998 600610 now to tell us how many body boxes you would like to send.

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it in your baby box. Please send too Children's Aid Direct. Dept 507, FREEPOST, Reading, RG1 1BR.

#### Clinton calls for a new spirit America enjoying the fruits of the information revolution, in an do this to advance the politics of petty hickering and extreme partisanship they plainly de-plore." It was wrong "to waste era not of "big Government", but "a Government strong enough to give us the tools to solve our the precious gift of time on acrimony and division". problems for ourselves." In one sense, he summoned

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

Demanding that the United States rise above race, parti-sanship and intolerance, Pres-Obituaries ......10 ident Clinton yesterday urged reconciliation on a divided Congress, and a "new spirit of com-Sport ......19-22 munity" on his countrymen, as they moved together into the

Speaking at the solemnest of all American settings, on the west terrace of the US Capitol immediately after having been administered the Oath of Office by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, Mr Clinton used the last maugural address of the 20th century to call for a "land of new promise" that could draw full benefit from the information rev-

olution changing human society. Coatless on a bright but chilly day, he pleaded for Republicans and Democrats alike to work together. "The American people returned to office a President of one party and a Congress of the other," he said. "They did not overcome prejudice and Amer- it sketched out a 21st century

But that exhortation will be

tested within the next 24 hours. Two hours before Mr Clinton was sworn in, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee did indeed unanimously confirm Madeleine Albright as his new Secretary of State. But as early as today the House must vole on the recommended \$300,000 fine and ethics reprimand for the Speaker, Newt Gingrich an occasion bound to have Democrats calling anew for his head, and Republicans speaking of a witch-hunt.

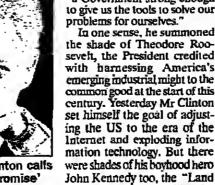
"Nothing big ever came of being small," the President insisted to the the dignitaries close by and the hundreds of thousands gathered on the Washington mall beyond. He expounded familiar themes of personal responsibility and the need to trist in tone, visionary in imprint.



for 'land of new promise'

ica's "constant curse" of race. These forces nearly destroyed our nation in the past. They plague us still."

addresses are built upon grand phrases, not legislative fine print, and Mr Clinton's 20-minute speech was no exception. Cen-



By their very nature, inaugural

In keeping with the introverted national mood, foreign policy scarcely featured, beyond a re-statement of America's position as "the world's indispensable nation", and its commitment to spreading

of New Promise" recalling the

"New Frontier" of 36 years

democracy around the planet. | hostage in protest at Govern-Pageant for America, page 8 | ment changes

significant shorts

## Why Labour's arithmetic is a lesson to us all

The young woman with the red power jacket, took out her mobile phone and spoke into it, framed by the large window with its panoramic view of Westminster. Gordon Brown was due to speak any minute, so there wasn't much time to sell shares, or buy securities.

We were gathered together in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, to he taken on the latest stage of MANIA Labour's exciting journey into power. This leg was to be run by the Shadow Chancellor and was headed, "Responsibility in Public Finance". Or why there's not going to be any money.

There was a strange crew around me. For a start, there were several smart young women organising things for Labour, one of whom actually sported a cleavage. In the hrief

**Christian Wolmar** 

Westminster Correspondent

Andrew Mitchell, the social se-

curity minister and former whip,

yesterday denied that he tried

to use his influence to subvert

the inquiry into the Neil Hamil-

ton cash for questions affair two

summoned to answer questions

about his role in influencing the

Hamilton investigation, told

the standards and privileges

committee that he had acted

"properly" during his mem-

bership of the now-defunct

members' interest commitee.

Mr Mitchell, then a whip, had

been appointed to the com-mittee in June 1994, in a high-

ly unusual move since whips

normally did not normally sit on

such bodies.
Mr Mitchell said he had not

realised that whips had never

served on such a committee and

did "not appreciate" at the

time of his appointment that the

have to say that I think it would

be better ... if whips did not

serve on such committees in fu-

ture, both for the whip and in

view of what has happened on

MP appearing before the com-mittee has had to give evidence on oath, and Dale Campbell-

Savours, a Labour member of

the committee, pressed Mr

Mitchell, stressing that he was

Mr Campbell-Savours sug- other".

giving evidence on oath.

Mr Mitchell, who had been



Prudence appeared so often that I began to wonder if she was Mr Brown's

mystery woman

gested that it was strange that Mr Mitchell had not appreci-

ated the role of the committee

since the Hamilton affair had

first come to light in May 1994.

a month before Mr Mitchell's

appointment to the committee.
Mr Mitchell replied that Mr

Campbell-Savours was speaking

with the benefit of hindsight and

that no one had objected to his

appointment to the committee,

including Mr Camphell-

Savours: "Any of 651 members

could have objected. No one ob-

jected," he said. Mr Mitchell, who is the sec-

ond minister to appear before

the committee the findings of

which led to the resignation of

the paymaster general, David

Willetts, last month, is accused

of passing on priviliged

information, obtained as a

member of the committee, on

to Richard Ryder, the Chief

tober 1994 to the Chief Whip

after he had seen the Registrar

article in The Independent that

day which suggested that Mr

Hamilton had failed to declare

The memo suggests the

an interest in consultant to the

very helpful I am afraid" which,

in a note to the committee, Mr

Mitchell "refers to the fact that

the Registrar's advice was in-

conclusive because the position

was not clear one way or the

committee was a quasi-judicial of Members' Interests to ask one. He said: "In hindsight, I him about the significance of an

This is the first time that an meeting was inconclusive and IP appearing before the com-

registrar.

He wrote a memo on 24 Oc-

Minister

denies

subverting

inquiry

days of the Benn Supremacy, such a thing would have been unthinkable. The woman in question would have been hustled out with a pair of dungarees over her head.

Then there were members of the Labour Finance and Industry Group, a pleasant (if motley) bunch of the sort of industrialists who are against putting children down chimneys. and who are the equivalents in puissance and numbers - of the Tory Campaign for Electoral Reform. They are the sort of folk who, when asked by the security guard at the metal detectors whether they have any coins in their pockets, hlush and hand the man a tenner.

One of them was Greg Dyke, the millionaire who runs Channel 5, and who sports the giveaway New Labour uniform of a busy to attend.

Then there was a liberal sprinkling of think-tanky folk, activist academics and left-of centre know-alls.

The most prominent was Roger Liddle, a former SDP man, who pens a column each week in the New Statesman entitled "A Memo to" (followed by the name of a different shadow cabinet member). Mr Liddle's pieces are rem-

iniscent of those Reader's Digest articles entitled "I am John's prostate". In one of my favourite fantasies, the entire shadow cahinet pen a reply called "A Memo to Roger Liddle". It consists of two words.

Then Gordon came to the lectern and delivered his

scend the old sterile battle" (we were wrong), and we must "move beyond the old battle- justified.) ground" (we were totally

"Now more than ever" (an inefficient Old Lahour way of saying "now") there can be "no taxation without information, justification or explanation" (which beats just "representation").

Labour, when it came to power, would be rigorous, efficient, tough, strict, sensible, fair and prudent. (Prudence put in so many appearances that began to wonder whether this wasn't the name of Mr Brown's mystery woman. Meet the firm - but fair - Prudence Rigour, the strict lady from Pitloch-

truncated beard (see also Alistair Darling, shadow chief secretary). Nicola Horlick was too ground-hreaking speech. It tongh. She, like her fiance, started with some of the usual would grip things effectively, and every item of household expenditure would have to be

But wait, I hear you cry, what's the point in Labour if it isn't going to lash out with tons of money? Well, as Gordon said, what matters now is not how much government spends, but how the money is spent"; a line I must remember for my impending negotiations about pocket money with a firmly Old Labour seven-year-old.

much I give you," I shall argue sternly. "What matters is how you spend it".

"But Daddy" she'll reply, "that's not the kind of maths they teach us at school."

## Balloon voyage ends in India

Charles Arthur

Tired and cold but with two world records to his name, the American balloonist Steve Fossett landed in a tiny Indian town yesterday - and renewed the competition to be the first to fly a balloon around the world.

Mr Fossett touched down esterday at 7.40am GMT near Prithviganja, about 430 miles south-east of New Delhi, having flown almost 9,500 miles over more than six days smashing the balloon endurance and distance records in his British-built Solo Spirit by about 4,000 miles and 90

"I wish I could have made the higgest achievement and flown around the world," he said. But this is also successful. It showed we are very close to being able to fly around the

He had to fight hard for his records: he spent the final night of his flight at 24,000ft over Iran, being buffeted by 120mph winds. The heaters inside the unpressurised cabin didn't work, the outside temperature was minus 27 Centigrade and the oxygen supply dried out his mouth. He had only about 12 hours sleep since taking off from St Louis, Missouri on

The former securities trader, now a full-time adventurer, was following the earlier failures of two rival teams - the three-man, £3 million Virgin Challenger, including Richard Branson, and a two-man team sponsored by Breitling.

Mr Fossett, 52, flew in a halloon costing about a tenth of the Virgin balloon, at a lower altitude, and alone. That imposed a drastic physical toll, even for a man who has swum the Channeland climbed the highest statue designed by Sir Peter's son, Igor, was unveiled yesterday Photograph: Geraint Lewis mountain in the US.

#### Nottingham. The man lashed out with a "Rosa, it doesn't matter how two-inch kitchen knife, badly cutting the girl's arm as her mother screamed for help. The attacker ran off but was later arrested by police while the child was taken to Nottingham's Queens Medical Centre where her condition was "serious but

Baby girl

her pram

stabbed in

mother as they shopped at

Meadows suburb of

NHS waiting times go up

not life-threatening".

New figures last night showed that the number of National Health Service patients waiting for more than a month for an operation has gone up. The figures came as Labour cancelled MPs' leave for a Commons vote tonight attacking the Government over the crisis in the NHS.

Labour said the figures showed that over a year, there was an 8.3 per cent increase in cancelled operations from 49,691 to 53,816 and a 12.6 per cent increase in patients waiting more than one month, from 5,502 to 6,196.

The Government is expected to accuse Labour of misrepresenting the figures, which, for the second quarter of 1996-97, show that compared to the previous year, there was a small increase in the number waiting, but cancelled operations were slightly down. Colin Brown

#### Apology from Channel 4

Channel 4 apologised vesterday for showing harrowing footage of a fatally injured climber, without his family's permission, two months after his death.

Members of the dead man's family complained to a broadcasting watchdog after watching Encounters -Mountain Rescue last May, about the work of the volunteer Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team. The family said they had no idea that footage of the unsuccessful rescue bid would be shown.

The Independent Television Denmark, all apparently Commission said the channel had committed a "serious misjudgment". A spokesman for Channel 4 said vesterday: We went to great lengths to get consent and this was a genuine mistake."

Austria .... Sch40 Nilands .... 95.00

#### Catholic family escape hand grenade attack

G00

A Northern Ireland couple A baby girl was seriously ill in hospital last night after she was stabbed by a mentally-ill and their five month old baby had a miraculous escap yesterday when a hand attacker while in her pram in a shopping centre, police said. grenade exploded

Eyewitnesses said the man underneath their van approached the child and her The Catholic couple, with their child, were driving around Larne, Co Agit the Bridgeway Centre in the when the device went of directly beneath the passenger seat, where the mother was holding her baby.

Their lives may have been saved by the fact that the device was so elderly, the grenade reportedly dating back to the second world war

The widespread assumption is that this was a loyalist attack. David McKittrick.

#### Sniffer dogs in Zoe search

Scotland Yard dogs trained to sniff out bodies yesterday joined a grim search for missing schoolgiri Zoe Evans. Senior detectives ordered a

renewed sweep of open land home on the army housing estate at Warminster, Wiltshire, after their decision to release her parents from custody, without charge. Zoe's mother Mrs Paula

Evans, 28, and her step-father Miles Evans, 23, an army driver, were last night staying at a secret Inspector Geoff Hicks:

spokesman for Wiltshire police, said: "After no sign of Zoe in 10 days, we are obviously very pessimistic about finding her alive - but our searches will continue."

#### Sports-star bombs denied

Claims that British sports stars in mixed-race relationships were the intended targets of a neo-Nazi bombing campaign were denied yesterday by police in Denmark who have arrested seven fascist suspects.

Reports naming Sharron Davies, the former Olympic swimmer, Frank Bruno, the former world-heavyweight boxing champion, and Paul Ince, the footballer, as targets were described as "unfounded" by the detective in charge of the bombing

Seven Danes are facing charges relating to the interception of three letterbombs in Sweden and the seizure of three more in intended for British victims. But Superintendent Ove Dahl said: "The packages that were seized were addressed only with postoffice box numbers in Britain. Steve Boggan

# Jail chiefs' U-turn over visitor searches

this occasion.

Prohation officers last night claimed the Prison Service had made a dramatic U-turn in the row over jail searching. Jail chiefs have drafted new

rules forbidding staff from running their fingers through the hair or searching inside the mouths of professional prison visitors. Officers are specifically warned not to touch the

The guidelines, drawn up by a senior prison official, Phillip Wheatley, and seen by The Independent, follow a row in which the National Association of Probation Officers (NAPO) threatened to seek judicial review of the legality of what it

called "intrusive" searching. The Prison Service, anxious to meet targets set down in official security reviews following the Whitemoor and Parkburst prison escapes, has maintained

that the searching is necessary to prevent drugs or weapons being smuggled into jails.

NAPO believes that the policy has gone too far, leading to over-zealous searches of prohation officers, social workers. lawyers and other professionals who need to visit clients in jail.

Last night it emerged that two women drugs workers were planning legal action after they were accused of being heroin smugglers and subjected to a full

strip search in a toilet in Liverpool prison. Sue Edwards, 35, and her colleague Carry Burton, 37, had gone to the jail to prepare a report on an inmate who was facing drugs charges and was being considered for rehabilitation treatment.

Stand-up role: Sir Peter Ustinov outside the Ustinov Studio Theatre, Bath, where a bronze

They have claimed that jail staff refused to acknowledge the authenticity of Edwards' ID and said she was really called Sue Rider, or "Heroin Sue". and was carrying drugs.

The women said the prison refused to contact their office to confirm their identities and called the police. They then asked the women to strip in a corridor behind some towels.

When the drugs workers refused they were rold to go into a toilet accompanied by a female prison officer and a woman police officer. They were strip searched and no drugs were found. Both women were badly shocked by the episode, for

which they received no apology, and are hringing legal action against the prison through their union, Unison.

A copy of the new draft, "Core Entry Search Procedures", was circulated to chief prohation officers last week. It will be submitted to ministers

for approval, Ann Widdecombe, the prisons minister, denied last night that the rules represented any kind of climbdown.



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THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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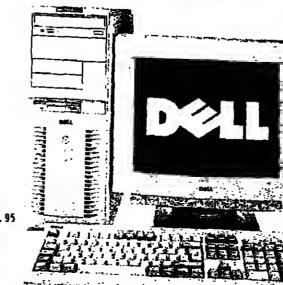
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#### Catholic family escape hand grenade attack

their child, were driving around Larne, Co Antrin when the device went off directly beneath the passenger seat, where the

saved by the fact that the device was so elderly, the grenade reportedly dating

is that this was a lovalist attack. David McKittrick

## a showed

joined a grim search for near the nine-year-old's estate at Warminster, custody, without charge, Zoe's mother Mrs Paula Evans, 28, and her

night staying at a secret address. Zive in 10 days, we are

## Sports-star

To that British sports water it moved-race the assume were the and largers of a new in the sign comparish we and a group my polices I'. The who have arrested with the straighters. Automotive naming Sharrow Day as the former Olympa evanities, Frank Bruno, the the and although eight and Paul

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NEWSPAPERS

in the first half of 1996

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Recycled paper made up 41.2% of

the raw material for UK newspapers

A Northern Ireland couple and their five month old bab had a miraculous escape yesterday when a hand grenade exploded underneath their van. and her

The Catholic couple, with mother was bolding her bab.
Their lives may have been

back to the second world The widespread assumption

#### Sniffer dogs in Zoe search Scotland Yard dogs trained

to sniff our bodies vesterday missing schoolgirl Zoe Evan Senior detectives ordered? renewed sweep of open land home on the army housing Wiltshire, after their decisor to release her parents from step-father Miles Evans, 23 un arm; driver, were last

Impactor Geoff Hicks "To Kooman for Willshire Susc. said: "After no signa and the same pessimistic at the day her alive - by at searches will continue

## bombs denied

and the Configuration angular turn described as are acid by the detects е по трано Спатопънца

and a property in Britan

Battle of the table: Mealtime turns into a clash of wills as a child refuses to eat his vegetables. Below, 16th-century plenty in Fruit Market, by Lucas van Valkenborc Researchers say children are exposed to cancer risk

ian Burrell

because vegetables are being left out of their diet point the way to even greater rates of bowel and breast can-

children get an adequate intake of vegetables, according to new research carried out for the Cancer Research Campaign. Experts are atarmed that a new generation of children are being exposed to a greater risk of cancer because they are bul-

lying their mothers into letting them eat what they want.

Many mothers have simply given up the stressful battle of trying to feed their children vegetables; and in particular frozen vegetables which are most effective in combating cancer because they retain the most

Christmas dinner is now the one

meal a year where many Britisb

nutrients. The 72-page report, written by Strathclyde University and seen by The Independent, is a damning indictment of the government's healthy eating campaigns. It criticises schools for five to choose their own junk exist on diets of jam sandwich- land. es and crisps. The worrying findings will be released today by Professor Gordon McVie, di-

cer in Britain,

He said: "We know from epidemiological studies that you can cut down the incidence of colon cancer by a third if you have a diet which is rich enough in vegetables and fresh fruit."

with potato crisp-style flavour-The research team at Strathclyde University was headed by Professor Gerard Hastings. He

their eating habits.

He said: "Mealtimes are is one of the few areas of children's lives where they know they have control because they

allowing children as young as hased on lengthy interviews ed as more expensive than fresh food meals from school menus the south-east and north-east of while parents permit children to England and the west of Scot-

One mother from the northeast, interviewed by the re-search team, said: "In my house rector general of the Cancer Re- they can have anything. As long search Campaign, who as they've ate they can have described them as "very de- what they want, when they pressing" and said they could want."

The mother of an under-five from the south-east said: That's what she has - jam sandwiches, or sometimes a little hit of cheese. That's all

Others gave their children vit-

she'll eat. And Hula Hoops.' Some of those mothers who were still feeding children vegetables were having to go to He said radical measures hizarre lengths to disguise the should be looked at including food. One mother in the norththe marketing of vegetables east said she covered her children's vegetables in yoghurt.

amin pills to replace the missing vegetables. The favourite foods for three said that today's young children were increasingly headstrong in to five-year-old children were cereals, tinned spaghetti, chick-

en, crisps, sweets and yoghurt. The research team found turning into a battleground that "many respondents had where food is the weapon. This simply given up forcing the issimply given up forcing the issue of vegetable consumption hecause they disliked the stress". Many mothers were eshave the power not to eat." pecially reluctant to buy frozen vegetables which were regard-The qualitative study was

with working-class mothers in and too high in water content. "If I give my son frozen vegetables, he wouldn't eat them. said one respondent. "If it's

frozen he'll whinge." Such a response will have been disappointing to Malcolm Walker, chairman of Iceland Frozen Foods which funded the research with the Cancer Research Campaign. He said: "It's prejudice. The quality of frozen food is nothing to do with the fact that it's frozen, it's what the retailer freezes in the first

"Fresh green beans that are three days old have only got 50per cent of their Vitamin C content, whereas frozen beans have no measurable loss of Vitamin C.

Experts believe that five portions of vegetables should be eaten a day, a level which the new report found was given to most children only on Christmas Day. The researchers found that in two areas, north-east England and western Scotland, "school dinners were nutritionally poor and allowed chil-

dren too much choice". Martine Stead, one of the researchers, said: "Because of the cafeteria style restaraunts children were coming out with chocolate pudding and two bags of crisps. There was no guidance to the children on a balance of dramatically reduce their susfoods and mothers felt very an-

One Scottish mother said: "Fiona comes home and she'll say she had a roll and a packet of crisps. They're letting her pick and she's only five years old." Dr Juliet Gray, a freelance nutritionalist, said mothers were being intimidated into letting children eat what they wanted.





## How vegetables prevent disease

ceptibility to cancer.

حكذا من الاحل

Parents lose battle with the greens

According to Professor Kay-Tee Khaw of Cambridge University's school of clinical medicine, the Vitamin C and many other nutrients and fibre in vegetables and fruit can protect against cancers of the lung, larvnx, stomach, colon and pancreas. Of the 300,000 people who get cancer each year in the

Scientists believe a greater intake of fresh fruit and vegetables by Britain's children could by Britain's children children could by Britain' stomach cancers, which claim 30,000 lives a year.

The average consumption of vegetables by Britons is just over 50kg per person annually, less than a quarter of the intake of people in Spain and Greece and less than half of the amount consumed in France and Itaty. Although links between diet and is a weight of evidence that sug- zinc.

iting exposure to a variety of the most common cancers.

Juliet Gray, a freelance nutritionalist, said that fruit and vegetables contained a mixture of "antioxidant" nutrients which protect the body against harmful oxidation processes. The nutrients include Vitamin C and E, beta carotene and trace mincancer are not conclusive, there erals including selenium and

with the dictary fibre which gives vegetables their texture. can give vital protection against common cancers. Frozen vegetables are considered by the Cancer Research Campaign to he especially important, because they retain higher levels of nutrients than "fresh" vegetables which lose some Vitamin C while on supermarket

Photograph: Andrew Buurmar

## Fine Roman relic released from mud that preserved it

One of Britain's finest Roman relics was yesterday released from mud which had encased and protected it for 1,800 years.

The 5ft sandstone sculpture of a lioness devouring a man is the largest and best preserved artefact of its kind to be found in the UK.

It was discovered on the banks of the River Almond at Cramond, near Edinburgh, and which was a Roman fort. The sculpture, which weighs around a ton, was found buried beside two plinths and is thought to be part of the tomb of a prominent Roman official in the second or

third century AD.

Graham, who saw the bead sticking out of the river inches from ferry steps which have been used by thousands of daytrippers over the years. At first he thought it was a modern sculpture and planned to take

it bome to his own garden. But experts were called in last week after he showed it to a local archeology enthusiast, who realised its significance.

Yesterday Mr Graham was among 200 onlookers wbo watched as it was finally re-moved from the mud. Archeologists spent the weekend removing silt from around the It was found by the local fer-sculpture, which was under 24-ly rare subject of a human be-

ryman at Cramond, Robert hour surveillance. It was finally lifted intact out of the mud by a crane. "I am just happy it is out in one piece," said Mr Graham, "It is just luck that I found it. I don't feel any pride.

it was just sheer luck." Mark Coltard, head arcbeologist with the City of Edinburgh Council, was delighted. "It is in one piece, there is not a scratch or a crack on it," he said. "I feel like a schoolboy again. People always asked what is the best find of my career, now

man sculpture to be found in the UK which showed the relative-

I have an answer for them." He said it was the fourth Ro-

ing devoured by an animal. But it was the largest and best preserved. He said this was because of the mud which had encased it and stopped air getting to it.

It bas been taken to a laboratory in Edinburgh which be-longs to the National Museum of Scotland, where it will be dried out slowly because of fears it could still crack. There are hopes that it will eventually be exhibited in Edinburgh.

It is likely Mr Graham, who takes day-trippers the 100 yards across the river from Cramond to Dalmeny estate in a rowing boat, will be rewarded for his promptness in reporting the

## Rock star admits stealing song

Jojo Moyes

As the walker Ffyona Campbell recently proved, there is no star as confessional as one with

a product to plug. And last night Dexys Midnight Runners star Kevin Rowland's apology for stealing the hit song "Come On Eileen" became a little clearer - with the news that he had an album due out in March. In a statement by his record company, Rowland said he was guilty of a cruel world-wide deception because the 1983 record was fellow band member Kevin Archer's idea. "I experienced hollow success with 'Come On Eileen' and Too-Rye-Ay, the musical sound of which ... mixed with Tamia-type soul, came from Kevin Archer and not me, as I claimed. The idea and sound

was his: I stole it from him, hurt-

ing Kevin Archer deeply in the process. I conned people all over the world, from the people close to me and the people I worked with to the fans, to the radio and TV programmers. and I made a lot of money. To everybody I conned, I'm sorry.

Archer, I love you, I'm sorry I hurt you. I was jealous of you and your talent. You deserved better, I bope you get what you deserve.

Rowland, 43, who is said to be no longer in touch with Archer, said he "felt like a total fraud, and unworthy and un-

Chris Evans left Radio One for good yesterday after failing to turn up to host his breakfast show.

The broadcaster gave up his £1.4m contract with the BBC last week after being refused permission to move from five days to four. But he had agreed to present the show until the end of March. However yesterday moming he falled to show up at Broadcasting House, leaving the BBC to put on a makeshift programme hosted by weekend DJ Kevin Greening which consisted almost en-

tirely of continuous music. Following Evans's absence Radio 1 executives spoke to his agent and then decided to release him from his contract with Immediate effect.

that came my way". Dexys Midnight Runners had a hit with "Come On Eileen": their Too-Rye-Ay album went to

number two the same year.

Last night a spokesman for Creation Records, with whom Rowland had just signed, said they agreed to publicise his statement "with some misgivings. He knows he's going to take some flak." His reasons for confessing 14 years late, they said, were unknown. Anything to do with the planned reissue of his Don't Stand Me Down al-

burn in a matter of weeks? "Perhaps he just wanted to get it off his chest," the spokesman said. Don't Stand Me Down, with "a new sleeve and two extra tracks", will be out in March. Camphell's book, The Whole Story', was published last year.

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ī	Animal Farm
4	Clases lames loves
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6	The Catcher in the Ryc J.O. Salinger
7	To kill a Muckinghard
8	One Hundred Years of Solutide Gabriel Garria Marque:
4	The Grapes of Wrath John Steinberk
10	Transposing bring Walth
"	Wild Swans han Change
13	The Great Gaish
13	Lord of the Flies
11	On the Road
15	Brave New World
lei	The Wind in the Williams Reuneth Grahame
17	Wintin-The-Pooh
18	The Color Purple
19	The Hubbit J.R.R. Tolkien
20	The Outsider
21	The Lian, the Witch & the Wardrobe
22	The Trial
73	Cause with the Wind
ú	The Hitchthiker's Guide to the Galaxy Douglas Adams
25	Midnight's Children
36	The Diary of Anne Frank Anne Frank
27	A Chickwork Orange
 _2v	Sons and Lovers
	Fo the Lighthouse
30	If This Is a Man
31	Lolita
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34	Lharlie and the Chocolate Factory Rould Dahl
35	Of Mice and Men
30	Belowed Toni Morrison
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74	A Passage to India
	Watership Down
41	Sophie's World
43	Love in the Time of Cholera Gabriel Garcia Marques
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## The 100 GREATEST BOOKS of the 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY. How many HAVE YOU READ?

45 The Remains of the Day
46 The Unbearable Lightness of Being Milan Kundern
47 Birdseng Sebastian Fnulks
48 Howards End
49 Brideshead Resisted
50 A Suitable Bor
51 Dune
52 A Prayer for Owen Meany
53 Perfune Patrick Suskind
54 Doctor Zhirugo
55 Gormenghasi
56 Cider with Rusie
57 The Bell Jar
58 The Handmald's Tale
59 Testament of Youth
60 The Magus John Fewles
6] Brighton Rock Gusham Greene
62 The Ragged-Trousered Philanthropists Robert Tirssell
65 The Master and Margarita , Mikhail Bulgakov
64 Tales of the City
of The French Liemenant's Woman John Fooles
66 Captain Corelli's Mandolin Lonis de Bernières
67 Staughterhouse 3
AY Zen and the Art of Motor Circle Maintenance Robert Pirsig
nº A Room with a View
70 Lan ke jim
71 lt
72 The Power and the Glory
73 The Stand
74 All Quiet On The Western Front
75 Padde Clarke Ha Ha Ha
To Mariida
77 American Psycho
79 A Brief History of Time Stephen Hawking
80 James and the Giant Peach
81 Lath Chatterley's Lover
82 The Bonfire of the Vanities Tow Rolfe
N3 Complete Cookery Course
84 An Evil Cradling
85 The Rainbow
Ste Oown & Out in Paris and London
87 2001-A Space Utlosses
89 A Dar in the Life of tran Deutswich "Alexander Salchentson
40 Long Walk to Freedom
93 The Mexandria Quarter
Control of the contro
95 High Fulclin
97 The BFG Roald Dahl
98 Earth's Porrers Anthony Burgers
99 1. Claudius
The the trace interpeter
If you haven't read all the 100 access to the of

If you haven't read all the 100 greatest books of the century (as voted by Waterstone's customers and Channel 4 viewers), you've still got something to took forward to. If you haven't read most of them, you've got some catching up to do. If you've hardly read any of them, welcome

to the twentieth century. For an indication of where you might like to start, try the thoughts of some well known names reviewing highlights of the list every evening this week at 7.55pm on Book Choice on Channel 4.

If the greatest books of the century are a source of riches, Waterstones, you'll be pleased to know, won't impoverish you. From now until the end of February, you can buy any four titles from the list for the price of three.

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#### news

## Staff at fault for Manton school closure

Judith Judd Education Editor

A headteacher and the warring factions on his governing body are largely to hlame for bad management at a school closed for eight days over one disruptive 10-year-old boy, says a re-port published yesterday.

The head and governors at Manton Junior School in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, were so preoccupied in fighting their own hattles that children's schooling suffered says the re-port from local authority in-

While governors hreached the confidentiality of meetings, the head, Bill Skelley, withheld information from them and tried to dominate meetings.

Last night, Mr Skelley's union accused Nottinghamshire county council of trying to make the head a scapegoat for its own failings and for those of the governing body. Staff at Manton went on strike last autumn after governors twice overturned Mr Skelley's decision to exclude

The dispute ended when the boy's mother, who denied that he was disruptive, agreed that he should go to another school.

The report says: "Relationships between the head-teacher and the governing body are unproductive. The work of the governing body and the strategic management of the school have been adversely affected by lack of information to governors, mistrust, and too little involvement of governors in the life of the school."

The "development of factions within the governing body only served to worsen the situa-

The governors, say inspectors, are divided into those who feel they "are unable to make an effective contribution because of the domination of the bead-teacher" and those who are "uncritically supportive of the head".

The balance of the governing body should be reconsidered because the recent resignation of some governors means that the majority are now strongly affiliated to the staff.

that they are always acting on hehalf of the children of Manton and not uncritically backing staff proposals."

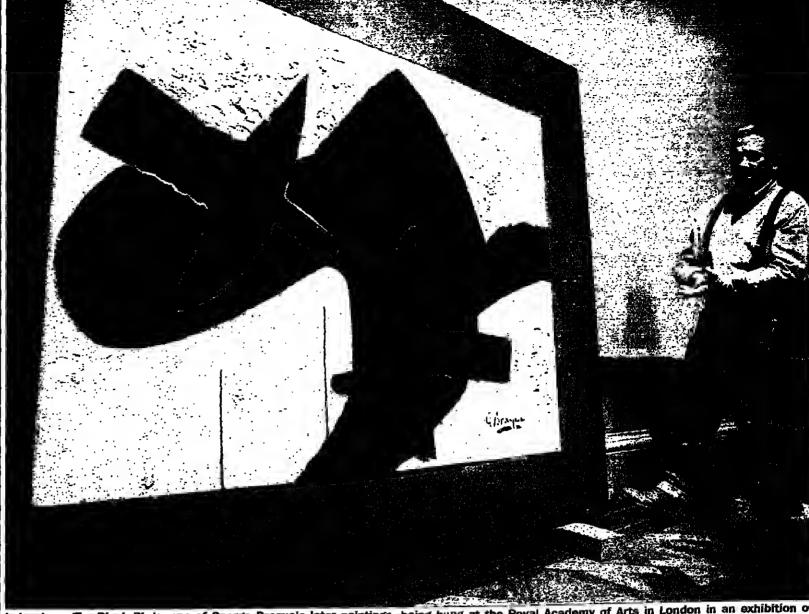
Pupil behaviour, which first brought the school into the limelight, is "sound and sometimes good". Discipline and bad behaviour outside lessons occurs because the school puts too much emphasis on punishment and control and not enough on praise and personal responsibility.

Relations between the head and staff are good, says the re-port, but it criticises them for insisting on retaining the maximum number of teachers to keep class sizes low. "This has henefited staff morale more than pupil entitlement."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "I am deeply disappointed with the tone and partial content of the inspection report, in particular the summary.

"The full report points to the generally sound schoot policy development and the significant progress made in the last two years under Mr Bill Skelley's leadership."

Nigel de Gruchy, general sec-retary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, to which the school's eight classroom teachers belong, said: "The report confirms my impressions that classroom teachers were doing a good competent job in difficulty circumstances."



Late show: The Black Birds, one of George Braque's later paintings, being hung at the Royal Academy of Arts in London in an exhibition of some 45 works from the final 20 years of the influential Cubist's career. The show runs from this Thursday until 6 April Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

# Fashanu 'received £800,000 in betting syndicate deals'

Michael Streeter

The television presenter and former Premier League footballer John Fashanu received up to £800,000 in deals with the alleged representative of a Far Eastern hetting syndicate, a court heard yesterday.

Christopher Vincent, a former business partner of the goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, told Winchester Crown Court that Fashanu's payments were discussed after Grobbelaar had collected £40,000 in an elephant-skin briefcase from ly fixing a match between Liverpool and Newcastle.

Mr Vincent told the court: When we were leaving ... Grobbelaar told me Fashanu had made somewhere between £400,000 and £800,000 doing business with 'the short man' Giving evidence on the fourth day of the trial in which



Fashanu: Denles accepting cash for match-fixing

Fashanu, Grobbelaar and the former Wimbledon goalkeeper, Hans Segers, are accused of fixing matches, on which the syndicate betted, Mr Vincent said treatment by Liverpool's then it was Fasbanu who bad intro-manager, Graeme Souness. duced Grobbelaar to the Indonesian outfit.

"Mr Grobbelaar told me that he had been introduced to some men from the Far East by John Fashanu. They were pre-pared to pay him £1,500-£2,000 a week for predicting the out-

come of football games."
Later, Grohbelaar told his fellow Zimhabwean that this had changed to fixing games -

by ensuring Liverpool lost.
"I asked him how that was possible. He said be had been yard or a foot off his line, no one would know," said Mr

Vincent. Grobbelaar had told him he was unhappy about how much his club, Liverpool, paid him compared with new players such as Paul Stewart, and was

Mr Vincent said apart from the £40,000 paid to him at a

north London address where Fashanu was present, he had been with the goalkeeper when he received payments of £1,000, £750 and £500 from a man he knew as "the short man" whom the prosecution say is the fourth defendant, Heng Lim, allegedly the Indonesian syndi-

cate's UK representative. On the first of these meetings. Grobbelaar and Mr Vincent had waited in the foyer of the Hilton Matienesier Aurport years and if he was standing a when the short man came in and Grobbelaar said: "That's my man". Later, Mr Vincent said

come close friends after the

goalkeeper invested £65,000 in

Grobbelaar had received £1,000 in a brown envelope handed over in the gents toilet. The court heard that Grobhelaar and Mr Vincent had be-

a safari and golf-trip companies but had fallen out when the safari company collapsed in summer, 1994.

Mr Vincent said that he then contacted the Sun newspaper. which arranged for him to meet Grobbelaar in a series of videotaped interviews with Mr Vincent, offering him the chance of a new match-fixing syndicate.

Grobbelaar, 38. Fasbanu, 33. and Malaysian-born Lim. 31, all deny giving or receiving money in a corrupt conspiracy to influence the outcome of a football match or as a reward for

Fashanu, Lim and 31-year-old Segers deny a similar charge. Grobbelaar denies a separate charge of receiving £2,000 as an inducement for influencing a football match.

Mr Vincent is at present in custody in connection with a charge on a separate matter. The case conlinues.

## Bank firm against Horlick claim

particularly unhappy at his

**Banking Correspondent** 

Nicola Horlick, the City pension fund manager, yesterday remained committed to her fight to win back ber £1 m-a-year joh but her attempts seemed deadlocked as her former employer, Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, was equally strong in its resolve not to reinstate her. Mrs Horlick grahbed the

against Morgan Grenfell Asset

Management on to the streets

of London at the weekend, no

rimonious departure from MGAM, where she had worked for five years and carned a reputation as one of the City's top fund managers.

She was also known as Superwoman for her ability to combine her hectic family life - she has five children and an investment banking husband and her demanding job. John Farr, her lawyer, said yes-

lic relations man who has been

advising her on her strategy -

Fellow spin doctors in the Square Mile have been as-.

tounded by the pension man-

ager's publicity-seeking antics. They suspect that "the Cad"

may even have to devise a dam-

age limitation strategy for him-

self to stop his own chances of

securing lucrative work in future

or at least thought he was,

terday she wanted to reach an amcahle solution, she has been con- an employee. "The ball's in icable settlement with her former structively dismissed and we employer as soon as possible.

Her first choice would definitely be to get her job back." said Mr Farr. But if this was not possible then compensation. expected to run to millions of pounds, is the alternative, if this fails she is likely to take legal action against MGAM for "con-

structive dismissal". "If there is not a quick amiwould be going to court. If there is going to be an amicable solution, it should be fairly

quick - one would hape by the end of the week - otherwise we're probably into the legal proceedings name." MGAM said it not been con-

tacted by Mrs Horlick and had no reason to communicate with her because she was no longer

her court," a spokesman said. The row broke out last Tuesday when Robert Smith, the chief executive of MGAM, suspended Mrs Horlick when he

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suspected she had been talking to a rival firm about moving there with her MGAM team. He had promoted her to his

deputy the previous Friday. She denied that she was plan-

## PR man's reputation in a tail City publicist struggling to repair his own standing

Media Editor

As suspended 'superwoman' Nicola Horlick took her fight one was wincing more than Anthony Cardew, the City pub-

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from sinking as low as hers. Piers Pottinger, of Lowe Bell Financial, spoke for many yesterday when he exclaimed: "I was quite amazed to see Anthinny getting involved in these shenanigans, which won't do him any favours in the City. It's just not his style. Indeed, it's more Max Clifford than Anthony Cardew," Mr Pottinger, a former col-

league of Mr Cardew, suspects that he gave Mrs Horlick sound advice which she simply refused to take. Cardew confirms that he had never met her before she hecame front page news. He took her on "hecause several very senior people in the City asked me to.

Although said by associates to be "a real name-dropper", he was careful not to divulge who and spills along the way which tional Gallery even has its own

these people were, and whether any of them are former colleagues at MGAM. Still. Cardew is sticking by his

newest and most unwieldy client, having finally persuaded



her - with the help of her lawyers, who are said to be equally disturbed by her behaviour - to retreat from

Cardew & Co said yesterday: Having made her case, Mrs Horlick has taken the advice of several people and is now maintaining silence, which is entirely sensible and proper. There have been some thrills

were perhaps unnecessary ... there has been quite unprecedented volume of coverage of what's really a local affair.

The "locality" he has in mind is the City of London, where it is customary for dissatisfied executives and institutions to part company in a decidedly more discrete manner. Such discretion is normally assisted, it should be said, by golden gags.

Cardew knows the rules and usually plays by them. He would take grave exception if anyone described him as the Max Clifford of the City. The Cad (after Fifties comedian Cardew the Cad' Robinson) practically lives in the Reform Club, according to friends. Educated at Marlborough, he assiduously cultivates the image of a country gentleman and is particularly keen on shooting.

Cardew & Co employs 30 people and heads up the second division of financial PR firms with an annual fee income of The 47-year-old head of around £3.5m according to the trade journal PR Week. It was founded in 1901 when Cardew left Saatchi and Saatchi's PR subsidiary Gradfield Rork Collins in acrimonious circumstances. Its plush, classically decoratedoffice near the Na-

butler. With a client list including Eurotunnel, British Aemspace, Lonrho and Allied Domecq, such luxuries are affordable. Cardew specialises in mergers and acquisitions and is used to playing the long game. This is fortunate, for it may take a long time for Nicola Horlick to repair the serious damage she has done to her credibility in the

lust few days. Even Anthony Cardew admits to having a major image rehabilitation job on his hands. As he puts it: "It's like an oil tanker. It will take time to turn around."

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RY 1997 • THE INDEPENDEN

#### Catholic family escape hand grenade attack

A Northern Ireland couple and their five month old hab had a miraculous escape yesterday when a hand grenade exploded underneath their van

The Catholic couple, with their child, were driving around Larne. Co Antrin when the device went off directly beneath the passenger seat, where the mother was holding her bala.
Their lives may have been

saved by the fact that the device was so elderly, the grenade reportedly dating back to the second world wa

The widespread assumpting is that this was a lovalist attack. David McKittrick

#### Sniffer dogs in Zoe search Scotland Yard dogs trained

t showed to sniff our bodies yesterda joined a grim search for missing schoolgirl Zoe Evan Senior detectives ordered

renewed sweep of open land near the nine-year-old's home on the army housing estate at Warminster, Wiltshire, after their decision to release her parents from custody, without charge.
Zoe's mother Mrs Paula Evans, 28, and her Step-father Miles Evans, 33 an army driver, were last

address. Inspector Geoff Hicks spokesman for Wilishire elice, soid "After no signa Zou in 10 days, we are obstructs very pessimistic et. et finding her alive - be our searches will continue.

#### Sports-star bombs denied Courter that British sports

night slaving at a secret

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Racycled paper made up 41.2% d the raw material for UK newspaper in the first half of 1996

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### THE INDEPENDENT • TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 1997

## Goodbye Britannia - and not even a sunset to sail into

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

The British Empire slipped a little further into history yesterday morning as, with little cere-mony and under grey skies, the royal yacht *Britannia* left Portsmouth for its final cruise. The climax of its last long voyage will be at the beginning of July when it picks up Chris Patten, the last British governor of Hong Kong, as the colony is handed over to China.

The end-of-Empire theme permeates 1997; not only is Hong Kong being handed back to China, but it is the 50th anniversary of Indian indepen-dence. And next year is the 50th anniversary of the creation of Israel out of the British mandate in Palestine.

The royal yacht itself will he decommissioned by the end of the year. As yet, there are no plans to replace it. If the Royal Family wants another one, they will almost certainly have to huy it themselves. Although the Ministry of Defence insists that it has not finalised its plans, it looks unlikely that the defence hudget will subsidise a new one - even one that has a theoretical wartime role as a hospital ship.

In spite of yesterday's to Britain in early August.
historical significance, only a handful of spectators were on the quay right by the yacht be-familiar to those who built fore it left, although by the time it headed out of the harbour more had gathered on the old Old Portsmouth, outside the naval base. No one, it seemed, had a

seven months in the sun, first stop Malta, and then on, via the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean to the Far East.

At 10am, Britannin slipped her mooriogs and headed out to sea, ushered by two tugs, Sheepdog and Sener. Television crews and photographers followed, and two helicopters carrying television crews circled overhead. But for an event so symbolic, there was very little interest. The British Empire was exiting, not with a bang, but with

Last Monday, a hig naval force had left the same harbour for exercise Ocean Wave, which will visit some of the same places as Britannia hut is largely separate from her cruise. The aircraft carrier, Illustrious, the destroyer, Gloucester, frigates, Chatham, Beaver. Richmond and seven Royal Fleet Auxiliaries will be taking part. But only Chatham and one RFA, Sir Percivale, will join Britunnia in Hong Kong.

Much of Britannia's tour will be commercial in orientation. iocluding ealls in Pakistan, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Japan and South Korea before it returns

The strong commercial emphasis would have been familiar to those who built the empire which is now entering the final stages of dissolution, including the hard-headed Scottish businessmen who built Hong Kong. In one way, yesterday's scene

great deal of sympathy for the was strikingly un-Victorian. As crew who were heading for Britannia headed out with a Royal Marine band on board, it contrasted with the sleek shape of the moored Victorian hattleship, HMS Warrior. Built in 1860, black with a smart band of buff just above the water-line, the Warrior represent-ed the acme of Victorian

technological and military su-

premacy. The first iron-framed,

armoured, steam-powered

ocean-going hattleship, it was the stealth bomber of its day. Lord Palmerston, seeing it among wooden ships, called this vicious killing machine "a snake among rabhits". That is how the Victorians came to rule much of the world. Comparing it with Britannia at a theme park promotion for UK Limited may give a clue as to how we lost it again.



Last farewell: Britannia leaving Portsmouth yesterday for the Far East where it will pick up Chris Patten in Hong Kong

صكذا من الاعل

#### DAILY POEM

The Teacher (for David Mason)

By Gabriel Fitzmaurice

f wish away my life until the pension Hoping that, just once, I will connect With sympathy that is beyond attention; Instead I keep good order, earn respect. Once I had a vision for my village - . . I'd bring to it a gift of poetry; Tonight the talk's of quotas and of tillage And how the barmaid gives out beer for free. And yet, I've not lost hope in my own people My vision was at fault; these people need To sing and dance, get drunk below the steeple That accuses them of gossip and of greed.

I mind their children, give them right of way Into n world I've seen and try to say.

Gabriel Fitzmaurice is director of the Listowel Writers Conference in Kerry; this poem comes from The Village Sings (£7.95 from Peterloo Poets, 2 Kelly Gardens, Calstock, Cornwall PL18 9SA). Peterloo Poets invite entries for their Open Poetry Competition, sponsored by Marks & Spencer, with a first prize of £4.000. Closing date is 1 March; for more details and an entry form, send an sae to the above address. The winning poem will be published in The Independent on 24 April.

WILL THE UNCONVENTION

CONFERENCE REVEAL THE

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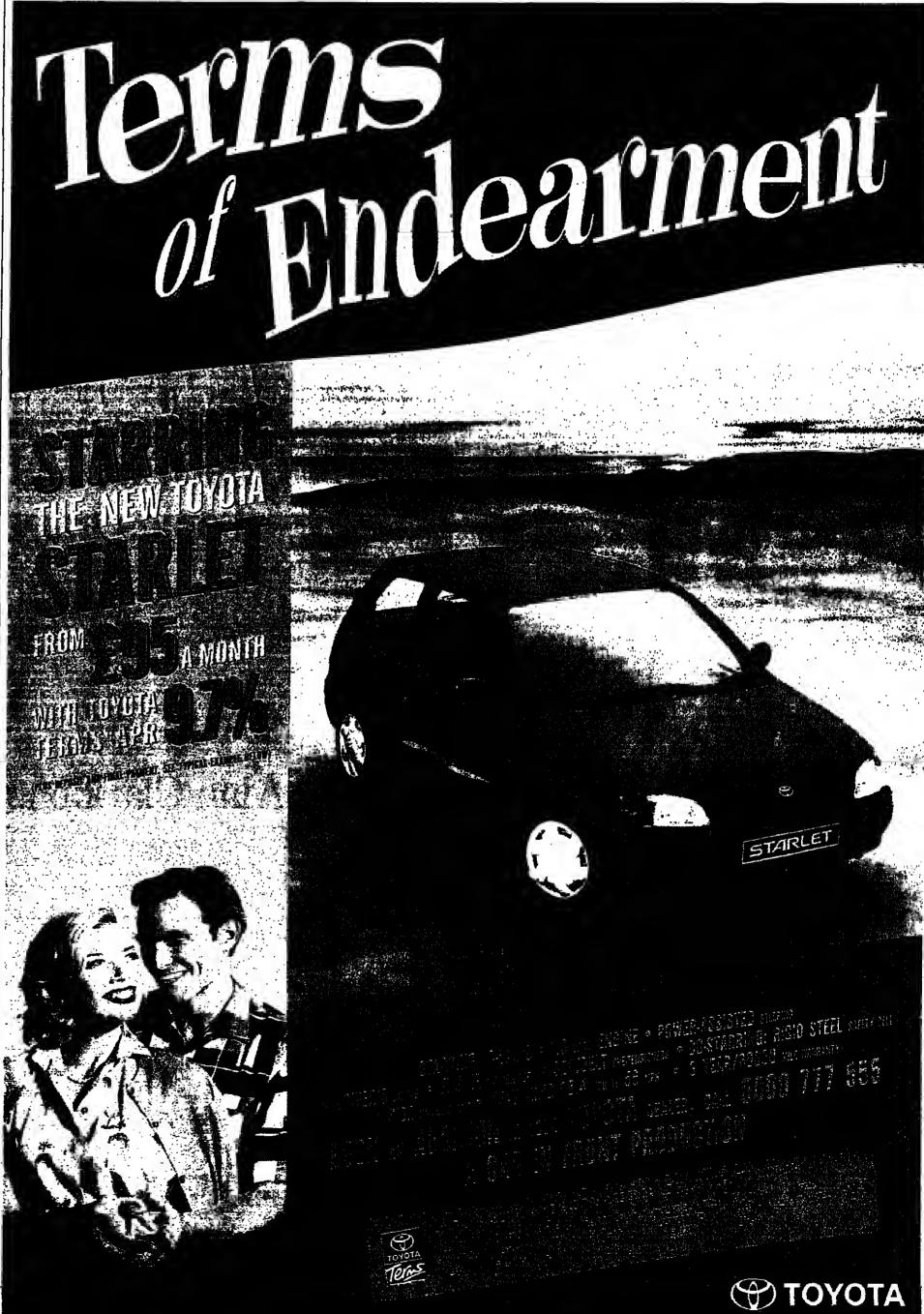
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**ESSENTIAL EVENTS** OF 199777

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY on 26 January 1997

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Brown pledges 10p tax, but no top rate rise

This is an edited text of the keynote speech made by the shadow Chancellor in Westminster vesterday

**Anthony Bevins** Political Editor

"My approach is not to tax and spend, hut to save and invest," Gordon Brown said in summing up Labour's new Exchequer doctrine yesterday. "I have an iron commitment to stability in public finances.

We will not spend for its own sake, but according to our priorities. We will organise the tax system around clear principles and values. And I have shown that we will make tough choices where necessary, and do so on a fair basis.

"But let nobody be in any doubt that we hulld from this platform of stability for a purpose. We do this so that we can equip our country for a prosperous future and raise the growth rate of our economy.

So that we can ensure for all the best educational opportunities and the skills to cope with change. So that we can give those denied work the employment opportunities they need.

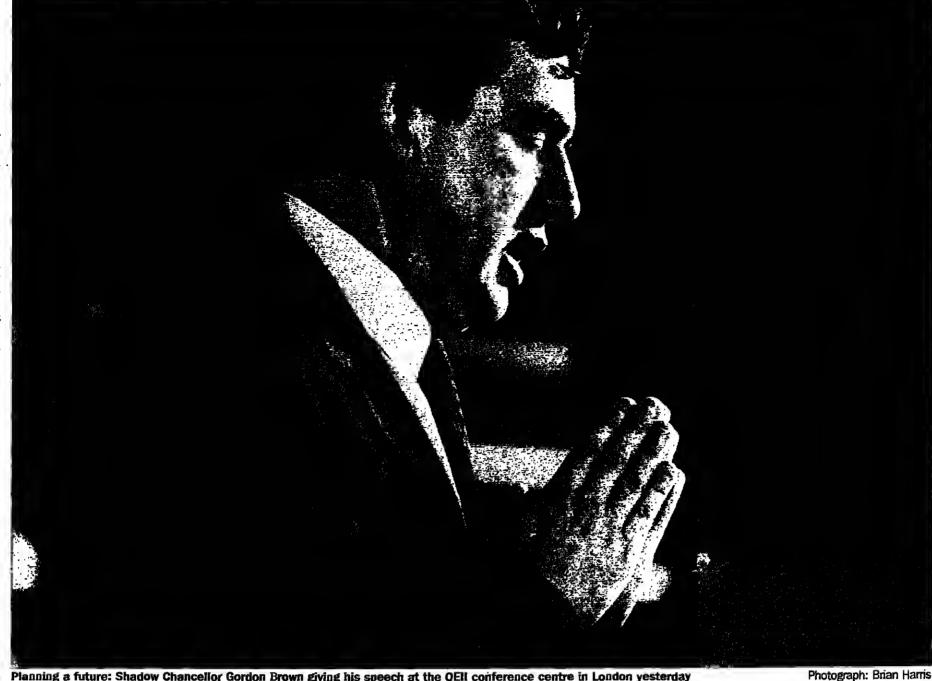
So that we can, in partnership with husiness, create the conditions for the long-term investment they need to succeed - and so that we can create a fairer and more just society, that ensures not just work and opportunity for those who need it but security for those denied it.

"It is through applying our prin-ciples and by huilding a new trust on tax and spending with the British people that Britain will be better off with Labour.'

At the start of his keynote speech to businessmen at the QEII centre in London yesterday, Mr Brown said: "Britain needs a new approach that recognises that government can hest advance the public interest not by suppressing markets - the old Labour view - or simply succumbing to them - the view of the right - but by equipping individuals and companies to succeed within them ...

"For the last 50 years this country has been held back by damaging cycles of boom and bust. The volatility has damaged the confidence that generates investment and is one of the key reasons why Britain has invested so much less than our competitors ...

"Low inflation is a precondition of sustainable growth. And we can only succeed in ensuring low inflation and interest rates through sound public finances based on a fair approach to spending and taxation ...



Planning a future: Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown giving his speech at the QEII conference centre in London yesterday

commitment to the public interest has often led to a reflex commitment to more public ownership and increase public spending. No longer ... Before we can make any strategic decisions on public spending, we must be sure that existing resources are being spent as effectively as possible in advancing the public interest ...

"In addition to ... responsibilities for law and order and defence, the decisions of a Labour government will be guided by our three priorities: encouraging investment for the longending and taxation ... term, expanding employment, and "In the past, Labour's correct opportunity and fairness ...

"Labour will take a firm and fair approach to public-sector pay. Decisions will be made with a view to retain, recruit and motivate staff. But these must be made within tough cash limits. With Labour, all publicsector pay agreements must be financed from within the agreed departmental cash limits ...

"Our programme requires no new spending commitments other than those financed by the windfall tax ... we will be making no new commitments in our manifesto which require additional spending.

"So our first Budget will not reopen

overall spending allocations for the 1997-98 financial year ... Each departmental minister will want to use their first year to work out with their departments and permanent secretaries how they can overhaul existing spending so that ... spending is reordered to meet Labour's priorities in the 1998-99 financial year ...

"The key to ensuring the decent services we all want to see and keeping the tax burden down is improving the performance of our economy, cutting the bills of failure and ensuring the public and private sector work together for Labour priorities ...

We have already made it clear that our approach to taxation will he based on our values: that the tax system must encourage work and opportunity for all, it must encourage investment and it must promote a fair society ... after 22 Tory tax rises since 1992 which have hit hard-working families, I want to make clear that a Labour government will not in-

crease the basic rate of tax. "It is because we understand the importance of work that there will be no return to penal marginal tax rates at the top. As a signal of the impor-

want to make clear that I will not increase the top rate of tax ... And just as it cannot be right that the highest rates of tax, so it is wrong that some tax on people earning more than of the lowest-paid face effective mar£100,000. ginal tax rates of 80 or 90 per cent, and, in some cases, over 100 per cent. must find something else for Mr.

lower starting rate of tax ... My tax- party's tax plans are still to be lower starting rate of tax of 10 series of major speeches scheduled pence to encourage work and help for the next few weeks, they are

Gurus spin a line in the future imperfect

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

By the time Gordon Brown rose to his feet yesterday, the Labour Party had already issued its attack on the Tories' attack on the contents of his speech.

In the fevered world of pre-election politics, everything happens at least 24 hours in ! advance. By the time a hig event such as a set-piece speech comes round, it has been in all the newspapers. As often as not, other political parties have aiready . spoken out against it and the party making the announcement has come back with its own reaction to the reactions.

Readers of yesterday's Independent, for example, will have seen some sizeable chunks of Mr. Brown's speech published verbatim on the front page.

Even though the shadow chancellor was not due to speak until yesterday, his spin-doctors had already fed a "line" on his tough stance on public-sector pay to the Sunday newspapers.

Lest the daily papers should feel left out, the news about Labour's public-sector spending freeze was then given to them for Monday

morning.

By Monday morning, therefore, much of that day's speech was public knowledge. So when Mr Brown spoke on Radio Four's ... Today programme he had to have yet another announcement to make in order to keep the broadcasters happy. He opted for the revelation
- already widely trailed but not previously confirmed - that Labour has dropped its proposal earners in Britain face penal marginal to impose a 50-per-cent top rate of

Now the party's spin-doctors "Labour wants to tackle the prob- Brown to announce next week, and lem of penal marginal tax rates fac- the week after. There is still plenty ing the low-paid by introducing a new to say, of course - full details of the cutting ambition is to introduce a new seen, for example. But with a whole,

## Peers vote down bugging powers

last night as law lords and other peers united against measures in its Police Bill.

The House voted by 209 to amendment which would require police to ohtain prior consent before hugging or hurgling homes or other premises. The Government then suffered another defeat on a Liberal Democrat amendment which would allow any one of 440 circuit judges to give the permission. Peers voted in favour of that measure by 158 to 137.
As ministers came under at-

tack from every side in a debate on their Police Bill, Lord Lloyd of Berwick told peers that if it were passed as it stood it would be challenged in the European

"What sense is there in passing a Bill which would he doomed under the European Convention?" he asked.

Ministers want police to he able to carry out their surveillance and bugging operations without having to seek permission to do so first. Labour, which originally supported the measure, was forced last week

ever

stage last night that police should have to seek permission in advance.

145 votes in favour of a Labour minister, James Callaghan, said that when he was Home Secretary in the 1960s electronic and covert surveillance was unheard of. The Bill's proposal that police should be allowed to carry out such operations on their own authority was fundamentally wrong.

When the security services have to secure a warrant to intrude on the premises of an enemy agent, I don't see why we should give less protection to our own citizens by not requiring chief constables to do the

same thing," he said.

Lord Callaghan said such operations must have started in the 1970s. By 1977-78, in his last years as Prime Minister, between 500 and 600 operations were carried out, the House heard. Now the figure has risen to 1,300. Baroness Blatch, Home Of-

fice Minister, said most peers seemed to be agreed that there was a need today to tackle se-rious crime in this way. "The police are concerned at

The Government suffered a to shift its position. Its spokes—the invasion of a person's pri-defeat in the House of Lords—man argued at the Bill's report—vacy and don't take decisions of this sort lightly. It is the police themselves who have pressed the Government for some years The former Labour prime now to put these activities on a statutory hasis," she said.

But opposition parties want extra protection for individuals. Lord McIntosh of Haringey, Labour's Home Affairs spokes man in the Lords, said that the Bill still did not give enough pro-tection to civil liberties. We are concerned not just

that serious crime should be pursued but also that we should preserve the principle ... that an Englishman's home is his castle and that the officers of the State and the Crown have no right to intrude into that home without some independent justification and independent authority," he said.

The Government was also at-tacked by a former Conserva-tive home secretary. Lord Carr of Hadley, who held the post from 1972 to 1974. He said he "astonished" when he heard how many surveillance operations were now going on. A judge should make the decision he said. "If we were to allow it to go the other way I



Lord Callaghan (above) and Baroness Blatch



successors would regard our allowance of it as something of which we should all he dreadfully ashamed," he said.

## Death of Labour MP Tories back from brink

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

The death of the Labour MP Martin Redmond yesterday pulled the Government back from the Commons minority which was created by last week's death of the Conservative MP

Mr Redmond, 59, was MP for Don Valley, in South York-shire. He had been suffering from cancer for some time. Because Mr Redmond and

Mr Mills have died so late in the life of the Parliament, neither Don Valley, nor Mr Mills's Meriden constituency will be open for a by-election.

But there is continuing speculation about the timing of the Wirral South by-election - and its possible impact on the tim-

ing of a general election.

A MORI poll which was conducted for the Sun yesterday bore out local Conservative fears about Wirral South, showing a swing of more than 15 per cent from the Conservatives to Labour in the seat since the 1992 election, with Labour leading the Tories by 52 per cent to

flects the change in local pop-ulation, with many new diehard Labour voters having moved "over the water" - the Mersey - and into the constituency, from Liverpool. A Conservative promise that

the by-election will not be held up means that it should be held on 6 March, the earliest possible date after the introduction of the new electoral register on 16 Fehruary.

There were two lines of speculation prompted by the MORI

36 per cent. Local Tories believe findings yesterday: one, that that the scale of the swing rea 20 March general election in order to avoid an unrepresentative débâcle in Wirral South; or secondly, that he would stall a general election until the last possible moment, I May, in the hope that the humiliation of Wirral South might be forgotten, and that things might im-

> The death of Mr Redmond means the Tories now have the same number of voting MPs -322 - as all the other parties combined.

## Alan Clark on road to Commo

Colin Brown

Chief Political Correspondent

Alan Clark, the eccentric former defence minister in Margaret Thatcher's government, has cleared the first hurdle in his hid to re-enter the House of Commons.

The former MP for Plymouth Sunon is among six candidates to be shortlisted tonight to replace Sir Nicholas Scott in the Chelsea and Kensington con-

stituency. The final election will be held on Thursday.

But at Westminster, some MPs were tipping Patricia Morris, a financial consultant, who is highly regarded as a hright, gutsy speaker. Sarah Whitehouse, a runner-up to Archie Norman for the Sevenoaks seat. is also on the shortlist.

Winston Churchill and David Harris, both existing Tory MPs, did not reach the shortlist, but the other hopefuls include

Hugo Summerson, the former MP for Walthamstow, north east London.

A barrister and adviser to the Euro-sceptics, Martin Howe, is on the shortlist with a local councillor, Daniel Moylan. Mr Howe is a nephew of the former Chancellor, Lord Howe.

Meanwhile, the party leadership is preparing for Sir George Gardiner to be sacked as Tory MP for Reigate by his constituency. Sir George, a helping".

leading Euro-sceptic and former leader of the Thatcherite 92 Group, survived one attempt to oust him by his constituency last year after the Chief Whip, Alastair Goodlad, and other senior figures in the party rallied round to his cause.

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role in Secrets and Lie!

A senior source last night said there would be no attempt to help Sir George a second time. "It's now entirely up to his constituency, but we are not



Who'd have figured it?

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# Cate risc Anglican Gurus spi a line in rebels to the future imperfeet appoint The same of the future imperfeet The same of the future imper their own bishops

Religious Affairs Correspondent

The schism in the Church of England over the ordination of practising homosexuals widened yesterday when Reform, a conservative evangelical group. announced plans to create its own bishops and to plant its own churches outside the Church of England that would be "legally independent but theologically connected".

"We intend to use the structures of the Church of England in its institutional forms where they forward the Gospel," the group announced.

Reform, which claims as members 600 priests out of the 10,000 who belong to the Church of England, did much to organise the protests against the service last autumn at Southwark cathedral in southeast London to mark the 20th anniversary of the gay Christian movement. The group con-demned the service as "a blas-

Reform is also opposed to women being ordained as priests, on the grounds that the Bible mandates patriarchy. For several years the group

has been moving in the direction of setting up a quasi-independent church - first by withholding money from diocesan funds, secondly by threat-ening to train candidates for the priesthood who would continue Reform's beliefs, and now by creating their own bishops, who

could in turn ordain priests. Such bishops would be ille-gal under English law, but their ordination would be valid. It is difficult to see what sanctions the Church of England would take against them.

Although Reform represents a tiny minority in the General Synod - where it has fewer than 16 seats out of 560 - il operates from a base of large and prosperous conservative evangelical churches, some of whom are already withbolding payments

not splitting the church, leaders doing the splitting.

In a statement announcing their plans for new bishops, the group says: "We ... are the Church of England, Our parishes are seen to be the embodiment of the doctrine that defines and constitutes the Church of England. Reform is not, therefore, 'a Church within the Church'. We are not ahout to 'leave the Church of England'. The statement continued; "We define the Church of England not by bishops and synods, but, as it is established. by the Bible, the creeds and the

Reform is vague about when the proposed bishops might be consecrated. It sees their deployment as a final step if the Archhishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carcy, refuses to grant their request for a "flying bish-op" who would sbare their theological views. The two "flying hisbops" so far appointed to minister to the opponents of women priests have been Anglo-Catholic, and disagree with Reform on almost everything except the undesirability of women priests.

Dr Carey is unlikely to accede to this request. Last autumn he denounced "bullying loudmouthed controversialists" in the Church: this attack was aimed at Reform.

Many of the Reform parishes are already in dispute with their bishops: one, in south London, has asked for the episcopal oversight of the Bisbop of Fulham, an Anglo-Catholic op-posed to women priests, rather than the evangelical bishop of Southwark, the Rt Rev Roy Williamson .

No official comment was forthcoming from the Church of England to this latest threat from Reform. Dr Carey is on sabbatical in the United States, and cannot be reached because the electronic mail system oo his



# The Englishman who stormed Paris

Galliano's Dior collection feted as finest since the New Look

Tamsin Blanchard

Not since Dior's New Look was shown 50 years ago has the couture house been so fêted as il was after John Galliano's first collection yesterday.

The designer was greeted with a tumultuous standing ovation after the show at the Grand Hotel in Paris. The world's couture collectors, from Nan Kempner to Galliano champion Sao Schlumberger, looked on in awe, barely able to control their mental shopping lists. And the Duchess of York, there in her new capacity as fashion commentator for Paris March, sat sandwiched between Marissa Berenson, Charlotte Rampling and Beatrice Dalle, conducting her own media circus. The clothes, rather than Gal-

show. There were magnificent pieces, including structured, hourglass hound's-tooth suits, Last Emperor Chinese bias-cut satin crepe evening dresses in lime green and old rose, beaded corsets inspired by Masai warriors worn over belle epoque dresses with exaggerated padded bottoms, and fantasty hall gowns of embroidered duchess

satin with yards of frothy net

skirts. There was as much Dior as there was Galliano. In 1947, when the 42-year-old Christian Dior showed his New Look, the wide hems of sweeping skirts and the opulent feminity shocked war-torn onlookers. The look was not new.

liano's usual theatrics, stole the but harked back to an age when women like his mother were laced tightly into corsets. Galliano shares the same vision of women. And his New Dior has made him not only the toast of the fashion world, but also of the

> Only a year ago, Galliano showed his first couture collection for Givenchy, which, like Dior, is owned by LVMH (Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton), Bernard Amault, chairman of the luxury goods con-glomerate is the man responsible for forcing couture to move forward. It is be who has bought John Galliano, Alexander Mc-Queeo and the American Marc Jacobs to Paris. The job at in the form of Galliano and Mc-

conture grandmothers who buy.

Dior is a plum post because the house is a money machine. In 1949, 75 per cent of all French fashion exports were licensed to Dior. The house was

first to seize upon the potential of selling affordable spin-offs to wider markets like to Japan and America. Miss Dior was, along with Chanel No 5, one of the world's best-selling fragrances. Because of that, the company, with its licences for scarves, sunglasses, ties, and cosmetics, has grown to today's turnover of over £1bn a year. About £705m in 1995 was from perfume sales alone (about five times the sales of the fashion house itself). By hiring oew creative blood

Queen, Mr Arnault has effectively declared war on the other coulure houses of Paris, namely Chanel, the company that actually makes money out of selling baute couture.

The change in pace of Paris couture has been inevitable since Galliano was hired for Givenchy. Before that, it was assumed that haute couture was dying out, along with its bandful of monstrously wealthy clients, Chanel's Karl Lagerfeld has welcomed the competition, and has managed a spot of espionage by poaching Galliano's creative support and muse, In November, when Lagerfeld

offered her more money than she could sanely turn down, she swapped allegiances. He shows his collection today.

Ready-to-wear designers are also been keen to get in on the act. Jean Paul Gaultier showed his first couture collection on Sunday night before an audience that included Elton John. Thierry Mugler shows his first couture collection tomorrow.

With the retrospective exhibition for Dior currently on show at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, and the publicity surrounding Princess Diana in the first Galliano for Mr Arnault will be rubbing his

Brenda Blethyn: Winning role in Secrets and Lies

## British films scoop Hollywood's golden honours

**David Lister** Arts News Editor

Brenda Blethyn, the star of Mike Leigh's film Secrets And Lies, led a night of British triumphs at the Golden Globe Awards in Hollywood.

The awards, decided by the Hollywood foreign press association and often seen as a pointer to the Oscars, saw Ms Blethyn win best dramatic actress for her role as a white working-class mother traced by the black daughter who she gave up

richly comic and poignant tale. Winning ber first Hollywood award at 50, Ms Bletbyn, a secretary for 10 years before she became an actress, said at the

ceremony at the Beverly Hilton hotel: "Crikey, I'm happy to be in the building, never mind standing up here. In a night of wins for Britain, The English Patient - based on Michael Ondaatje's 1992 Book-

er Prize winning novel - direct-

drama and best original score. Awards for performances on American Jelevision saw three

British stars pick up the top honours. Helen Mirren won best actress in a mini-series, for Losing Chase; Alan Rickman was best actor in a mini-series, for Rasputin, and Sir Ian McKellen won best supporting actor, also for Rasputin.

Evita, directed by Alan Parker, won three awards, including ed by Anthony Minghella and best motion picture musical. Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim starring Ralph Fiennes, won two

for adoption at birth in Leigh's awards: best motion picture Rice received an award for best original song with "You Must Love Me", the one new number that the pair composed for the movie. And the star, Madonna, won ber first Globe for best actress in a musical. Madonna, who became pregnant while making the film, said at Sunday night's ceremony: "I have been very favourably

much to be thankful for. Making this movie was an incrediadventure for me."

blessed this past year and I have

The Golden Globes launched

Hollywood's awards season with a definite accent on films made abroad. Geoffrey Rush won best dramatic actor for the Australian film Shine. The Golden Globe for best foreign language film went to the Czech Republic's Kolya.

One of the biggest cheers of the night came when the best supporting actress award was won by the now veteran star, and widow of Humphrey Bogart, 72-year-old Lauren Bacall. Astonishingly, it was the first major award she bad

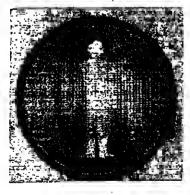
possessive mother of Barbra Streisand in The Mirror Has Two Faces, waved ber Golden Globe aloft to hoots of joy as the audience rose to its feet. "I'm in a state of shock," she said. "This is the first time I've been nominated for an award

in any role." Dustin Hoffman received a lifetime achievement award, presented to him by his fellow actor Tom Cruise, who himself picked up a statuette for best

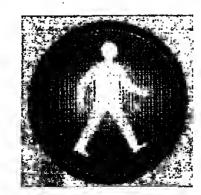
comedy actor in Jerry Maguire.



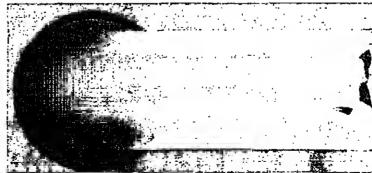
Alan Rickman: Best min series actor for Rasputin



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# Europe urges Annan to reform the UN



The European Union is to urge the new Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, to take swift and aggressive steps to overhaul the organisation's sprawling web of departments, agencies and specialised funds, if necessary merging some with each other and eliminating others

between EU governments most recently at foreign minister levcl, are contained in a 25-page memorandum obtained by The Independent. The document will be presented today to Maurice Strong, the Canadian inrice Strong, the Canadian in-dustrialist who was appointed by Mr Annan at the weekend to

While the memorandum,

which is still classified, is farreaching in its suggestions for change, it contains repeated warnings that reform at the UN should not be equated with cutting the organisation's budget. The references are meant to put distance between the EU and those voices in the United States, most of them Republican, seeking to use the reform The proposals, that have exercise to strip away UN resources. "The reform of the United Nations is not about cost-cutting," it insists.

In what promises to be a crit-ical week, Mr Annan tomorrow begins a visit to Washington, where he will meet for the first

bring together an overall reform Annan must try to persuade members of Congress of his from the controversial Speth commitment to reform while convincing them to release the more than \$1bn in late payments due the UN from the US.

Mr Annan hopes to have a complete package of reform proposals ready by the summer. Mr Strong, 67, who also acted as an adviser to the last Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, will head a task force of advisers on reform. Its other members will include Gustave Speth, the head of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who last year caused controversy by asking that all UN development and humanitarian bodies he stream-

lined grouped under his own. The EU document, which is restricted to addressing UN social and development activi-

Where the need for rationalisation is clear, the paper said, the "Union considers that funds and programmes so assesses could be merged ... the assessment should extend to all funds and programmes".
In a nod to Mr Speth's allu-

sion to a new umbrella role for his agency, the paper adds: "While fully open to dialogue on hest ways forward in this respect, the EU considers that the UNDP could provide a focus for enhanced co-ordination in this

Both Mr Speth and Mr Strong have voiced on the

Organisation in Vienna (from which Britain has just with-drawn) and the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

The EU also calls for the creation of a new Under-Secretary General who would take overall responsibility for all UN social and development activities. This person would act as Executive Secretary to the Eco-nomic and Social Council, the overarching committee of all UN members that oversees all development matters and which would itself be radically streamlined and pared down.

The EU would also like to see the establishment of a single UN headquarters in each country where the UN is represented. record their support for closing down some of the less obviously useful UN agencies such as the UN Industrial Development where the OV is represented. At the head of each would be a single UN representative, responsible for co-ordinating all UN efforts in that country.

## significant shorts

## move home to to Bright recuperate

Boris Yeltsin was last night due to leave hospital and move to his residence outside Moscow where he will continue to recuperate from double pneumonia, his spokesman, Sergei Yas-trzhembsky, said. But he declined to say when the President, who was admitted 13 days ago, would resume work in the Kremlin.

Although Mr Yeltsin's doctors have made clear he needs three weeks to return to health, Mr Yastrzhembsky said he may "possibly" go ahead with a trip to The Hague on 4 February after meeting the French President, Jacques Chirac. Phil Reeves - Moscow

#### Solana silent on Nato talks

A silent Javier Solana. Secretary-General of Nato, flew out of Moscow last night after five hours of Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, over the alliance's plans to expand eastwards. falks were held in a secret location outside Moscow. Mr Solana left Russia without comment, while the Kremlin said the talks were merely a "prologue". In an effort to soothe Russian opposition to the alliance's planned expansion, Nato is believed to be offering a consultative role to Moscow over security and arms control issues, as well as more economic assistance.

Phil Reeves – Moscow

## Megawati blocked

Officials blocked Indonesia's pro-democracy leader from running for re-election to parliament, issuing a final list of candidates for voting in May that excludes Megawati Sukarnoputri and her supporters. The list of candidates approved by election officials includes four of President Subarto's children, his half-brother, a daughter-in-law and a cousin. Ms Megawati's removal as leader of an opposition party last year led attack on a clinic in Atlanta, to anti-government rioting.

#### New spy body for Japan

Japan launched its higgest spy agency, a unified military group, ending decades of fragmented intelligence gathering and reliance on information from Washington. The Defence Intelligence Headquarters (DIH) brings under one umbrella group the five separate intelligence units of the army, navy, air force, the Defence Agency (ministry) and the Japan Military Joint Staff Council. The 1,660 DIH staff will dwarf the 300-member Cahinet Research Information Bureau, the government's top ntelligence agency at

#### Latvian PM resigns

The Latvian Prime Minister Andris Skele announced he was resigning, saying it was impossible to stay in office after other officials and legislators questioned his honesty. Mr Skele acted after questions were raised about his actions in choosing were taken into police a finance minister. AP - Riga custody. Reuters - Jakarta

## Yeltsin due to Mexicans flock Star' wedding

With thousands of fans crowding outside, millions watching on television and hlessings from the Pope himself, Mexico's most popular stars got married in one of the country's biggest weddings ever. Archbishop Norberto Rivera Carrera - the Roman Catholic primate of Mexico - officiated at the nuptials of Lucero, an actress-singer known by her first name, which means "Bright Star," and the singer-actor Manuel Mijares. AP - Mexico City

#### Coup trial opens

The trial over the killing of Bangladesh independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman opened, more than 21 years after his death in an army coup. Lawyers said six of the 25 people accused of involvement in the killing of involvement in the killing of Mujib appeared in court, including three ex-army officers. In all 32 people, including Mujib, his wife and three sons were killed on 15. August 1975, in the country's first army revolt.

Reuters - Dhaka

#### Mudslide kills family of four

A waterfront house in Washington state with a view of Seattle's skyline was pushed into Puget Sound by a mudslide, killing a family of four. The mudslide slammed into the back of the three-story house. Melting snow from storms late last month and last week's steady rain have saturated area hillsides on the island west of Seattle. AP - Bainbridge Island, Washington

#### Abortion clinic bombed

Two bomb explosions rocked an abortion clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Sunday, just three days after six people were injured in a similar Georgia. The two bombs outside the Reproductive Services of Tulsa clinic. Reuters — Tulsa

#### Berlusconi judge quits

The year-old corruption trial of Italy's former prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, was thrown into disarray when the presiding judge stepped down in a row over allegations of hias. The decision by judge Carlo Crivelli meant the trial in Milan, at which Mr Berlusconi and 10 others are charged with complicity in corruption, might have to restart from scratch. Reuters - Rome

#### Lover's reptile revenge

A jilted Indonesian woman released six cobras in a crowded karaoke bar in central Jakarta to teach her former boyfriend, who

worked there, a lesson. The woman accused her former lover, identified only as Tu, of having an affair with a colleague, said Indonesia's news agency. The woman and the cobras

# Marines and the ugly lads join pageant for America's coronation

## Clinton basks in party for a nation

John Carlin

Earnest, adolescent, high-minded, tacky, commercial, amhitious, fahulously diverse and, above all, hig, the fesuvities yesterday to mark Washington's four-yearly pageant, the presidential inauguration, achieved their objective - to capture the spirit of

From the steps of the historic Capitol, a Washington school choir sang a song of love for America, celebrating the mountains, the prairies and the oceans, the freedom, the peace and the

The vast crowds looked uplifted, rapt, but a confused foreign visitor could have been forgiven for imagin-ing he had stumbled onto the set of a Coca-Cola commercial. The event was a coronation, United States-style sans ermine, sceptres and crowns, but teenage baton-twirlers, chocolate-box marching hands and Disney parade

floats apienty.

The official inaugural theme, picking up on President Bill Clinton's favourite election campaign slogan, was "An American Journey: Building a hridge to the 21st century". The purpose of the floats was to describe that journey, recount the history of the world's most successful nation through

images on wheels. A plaster of Paris revolutionary soldier beating a drum led the way ahead of a giant plaster of Paris scroll bearing the opening words of the US constitution ("We, the people ...") in 18th-century script. Then a plaster of Paris eagle and then, the pièce de resistance, a cartoon train covered in red and blue furry synthetic carpeting. closely followed by a stagecoach set in a landscape of polystyrenc cacti and

papier maché rocks. As the present day loomed, the images become appropriately eclectic. One float hore on its prow the wings of the Kitty Hawk, on the prow a windmill, at the stern a transparent plastic bag filled with red confetti marked "blood plasma". Then a rocket trailing spray-painted cotton wool, two computer screens inside a cage adorned like a greenhouse and, perched on a parapet, a plaster of Paris man with ear mufflers aiming a black pistol in the general direction of a glit-

tering gold Statue of Liberty. The human element in the parade, viewed by President Clinton from inside a bullet-proof capsule in front of America's mad. magnificent variety. The US Marine Corps band and Com-



Photograph: Reuters

pany C. 8th Tank Battalion of Tallahassee. Florida, marched in fearsome lock-step ahead of a giant phalanx that included the Barrow Eskimo Dance Group, the Hub City Dancers, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Covered Wagon, the James Madison University Marching "Roy-al Dukes", the Wildcat Wranglers. Mahina and the Polynesians, Bill the Mule, the Rasputin Mule Farm and Los Changuitos Feos de Tucson, which testors struck the big day's one dis-

means the "Ugly Little Lads of Tuc-

The cheerfully uncritical crowds lining Pennsylvania Avenue chomped hot dogs, waved little US flags, sported inaugural souvenir T-shirts and shot envious glances - for it was a long day - at the privileged few who had purchased road-side seats, price \$10 to

A small bunch of anti-abortion pro-

cordant note. They lined a stretch 50 vards long of Pennsylvania Avenue, holding aloft large placards bearing photographs of bloody, hideously dis-

membered foetuses. Otherwise, the mood was resolutely cheerful. Mr Clinton, sucking in the pomp and the adulation, was king for the day and even the congressional Republicans, at a time when US politics is defined by ad hominem squabhles,

Today hostilities will resume, sincere as Mr Clinton's appeal was in his speech for an end to bipartisan hickering. But yesterday was US family day in Washington as the hundreds of thousands of revelling patriots on the Mall and the millions watching on television glowed with pride, thankful for the reminder that the US enters the 21st century unchallenged as the mightiest, richest, most innocently optimistic

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## Britain backs US plan for global ban on landmines

Tony Barber **Europe Editor** 

The United States launched an initiative vesterday to secure a world-wide ban on landmines. which, according to humanitarian organisations, kill or main

about 25,000 people a year. The Government said it supported the US proposal, which was made public only days after the Princess of Wales came under fire from Tory politicians for denouncing landmines as "hideous weapons" during a visit to Angola on behalf of the British Red Cross.

The Government, perhaps sensing public support for the princess's remarks, quickly distanced itself from the criticism of her and made clear that it ad-

vocated a ban on most antipersonnel mines. Government officials point out that Britain has not manufactured such mines for years and that China and Russia are the world's largest producers and exporters of landmines.

The Clinton administration put forward its initiative at the United Nations-sponsored Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, but without much expectation that it would achieve rapid results. Diplomats said the 61-nation conference was likely to get bogged down in the next few weeks over the demands of non-aligned and developing countries for total nuclear dis-

armament before there was any progress on landmines.

which is supported by France as well as Britain, may produce results in the longer term. This is because Russia and China, whose support would be essential to the effectiveness of a world-wide ban, have indicated that they are at least prepared

to discuss the issue in Geneva. US officials said it made more sense to push for a landmines han at a conference where the Russians and Chinese were taking part. The US han would cover mines designed to kill or injure people, but would exclude anti-tank mines.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, one of several humanitarian groups pressing for a world-wide han, estimates there are more than 100 million However, the US approach. landmines in 64 countries.

## Serbian court suspends judgment on poll outcome

Mark Heinrich

Reuters

Belgrade -- A Serbian court yesterday suspended an electoral commission ruling that President Slobudan Milosevic's Socialist party had lost Belgrade municipal elections to an opposition

coalition two months ago. The municipal court presideni Dragoljub Jankovic, clarifying the effect of appeals against the electoral panel's decision, said it was put on icc pending a ruling by the Supreme Court on which court

shruld decide the volatile issue. The opposition Zajedno (Together) coalition has staged nine weeks of street protests against the annulment of its victories in countrywide municipal the West for democratic reform in Serbia.

Analysts said the Socialistinfluenced municipal court may have been browbeaten by party bosses into passing the buck to higher legal organs under no deadline for a ruling, giving hardliners more time for

counter-moves. Zajedno fears a new outhreak of political violence in Serhia's Albanian-majority province of Kosovo could allow Mr Milosevic to divert attention from the election crisis and build a case for emergency measures to quell any dissent.

Belgrade's multi-party electoral commission reinstated Zajedno's triumph in the cap-ital a week ago but said its judg-

elections, generating pressure in ment was preliminary and open to appeals.

Jankovic said two appeals were submitted - one by the Socialists (SPS) and the other by the rightist Serbian Radical Party (SRS), which is not in the government but opposes Ser-

oia's moderate opposition bloc. The decision of the electoral commission is suspended until the Supreme Court decides which court should rule on the matter]," Mr Jankovic said

He said the Supreme Court had no deadline for a ruling. Of ficials in Nis, Serbia's second city, declared a Zajedno victory last week. The SPS lodged an appeal but it was thrown out by Nis municipal court. Zajedno plans to convene the new regional assembly on 27 January.

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With thousands of fant crowding outside, millions watching on television and blessings from the Pope himself, Mexico's most constant stars out manual. popular stars got married n one of the country's biggest weddings ever Archbishop Norherto Rivera Carrera - the Roman Catholic primate of Mexico - officiated at the nuptials of Lucero, an setress-singer known by her first name, which means "Bright Star," and the singer-actor Manuel Mijares, AP - Mexico Cite

#### Coup trial opens

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#### Mudslide kills family of four

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#### Abortion clinic bombed

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# Britain slams EU fast-track strategy

Sarah Heim Brussels

The Government must maintain the right to veto any attempt by other countries to build a "flexihle" multi-speed Europe, Britain told its European partners vesterday.

David Davis, Minister for European Union, made clear at a meeting in Brussels that if other countries wanted to pool powers without the rest, the goahead must be given by all member-states. The European Union was "not a franchise operation" he said, adding that the institutions of union were the



Hans Tietmeyer: Attacked Europe's political leaders

"common property of all". His comments put Britain at loggerheads with the French and German foreign ministers, who spoke out together in favour of majority voting on issues of flexible power-sharing.

The key point is more majority decisions," said Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister. "We cannot get stuck. The European motor must not stall. It must keep running, and France and Germany must march side-by-side."

The ministers were speaking after the EU's first substantial discussions on how "flexible" decision-making might work. Flexibility, which would allow some countries to integrate Europe's leaders decide early in without all member-states, is now viewed as the key to a more workable union.

It has become the most contentious issue on the table of the countries in a restrictive way," Inter-Governmental Confer-

ence on EU reform, as the talks enter the final haul before the EU summit in Amsterdam in June. In recent weeks John Major has taken a conciliatory line on flexibility, suggesting to European partners that Britain is not opposed to creation of a multi-speed Europe, which would allow Britain to opt out

of policies it does not favour. But Britain appears to have been taken aback by the way in which other member-states particularly France and Germany - intend to use flexibility to push for deeper power-sharing in areas ranging from defence and immigration to

taxation and monetary union. Yesterday Mr Davis said the Franco-German ideas on flexibility were an attempt to "bypass" the veto and that was "not acceptable." He said a "majority" of other member-states were expected to support the British position on flexibility.

If other countries were pushed by the British veto into power-sharing outside the treaty, this would not threaten Britain, he said.

British obstruction on flexihility was not the only cause of unease among EU leaders yesterday, as more evidence appeared of concern about progress towards economic and monetary union. Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, criticised Europe's political leadership for failing to win the public round to the euro, saying they had been ton ready to blame economic problems on the Maastricht Treaty.

In an interview with the International Herald Tribune yesterday Mr Tietmeyer hlamed European countries, including Germany, for faltering economically because they had failed to react quickly enough to the rising power of Asia, the growth of Eastern Europe and revival of the US.

Mr Tietmeyer repeated a 1998 which countries qualify for EMU. "The treaty is the treaty, and if politicians stick to that, then we will have to select the



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Overdrawn: Jérôme Meysonnier (right), head of Crédit foncier de France, being held captive in his bank by angry workers

# Bank boss a hostage to misfortune

John Lichfield

It is not so much a revolution as a white-collar counter-revolution in defence of an ancien

Hundreds of bank employees, in suits and silk scarves, have taken their boss hostage in his own office. They have draped placards insulting the Joppé government in the potted palms of their bank's lobby. And they have turned the marbled halls of one of the most prestigious sites in the financial district of Paris into au impromptu disco. call for strict interpretation of the Maastricht Treaty when for a prolonged siege,

protesters seized the governor of the bank and 10 members of his board on Friday and held them prisoner throughout the weekend. But the government

appointee (who seems in two minds whether he supports his captors or nnt). Yesterday aftermoon there was nne policeman outside the huilding, directing traffic.

The dispute provides a mi-crocosm of France's once-cosy public-private husiness relationships and the impact of the sometimes clumsy attempts by the centre-right government of Alain Juppé to expose them to market forces. The government announced plans last year to dismember the Crédit foncier de France, which for more than 140 years had a government-auv on loan Except there is no siege. The for the building of homes for the less well-off.

The bank, technically a private institution but always run by government appointees, suffered vast losses in the 1980s, has made no attempt to rescue when permitted by the then So-

the bank's chief, a government cialist government to go beyond its traditional role and speculate in property at large. The new centre-right government which took power in 1995 abolished the bank's monopoly on loans for cheap housing developments and then, last July, announced that its remaining business would be split between two other institutions

(with the loss of 1,800 jobs), For years, Crédit Foncier employees seemed to have the best of both worlds, private-sector salaries and the security and status of civil servants.

Now the employees insist that they are the victims, not of an economic revolution, but a political plot. They point out that a large part of the bank will be merged with another institution once headed by the present housing minister. Pierre-André Périssol. They compare their bank's modest profits last year with the hil-

lions still being spent to bail out the much larger, state-owned

Yesterday the government said it had appointed a conciliator to try to resolve the dis-

Jean Arthuis, said there was no question of refloating Le Funcier. "We are no longer in the business of creating new, publicly owned banks," he said.

The captive governor, Jérôme Meysonnier, originally appointed as an executioner, has gone native and pleaded for his bank's survival. He "understands" and "admires" the protesters hat they "should not go beyond certain limits". He faced fourth night sleeping in his dishevelled office, which he

## Rwanda 'unsafe' for aid workers

David Orr

Aid agencies in Rwanda are to scale down their operations but will remain in the country following an attack on an agency compound at the weekend in which three Spanish aid work-ers were killed.

The non-governmental or-ganisations (NGOs) reached their decision after an emergency meeting of United Nations and aid agency officials vesterday to discuss the situation in north-western Rwanda where the attack took place.

"Our security people are working with the NGOs to increase security," a United Nations spokesman told The Independent. "We've also had meetings with the Rwandan authorities. One of the things we're recommending is that no aid workers should stay overnight in Ruhengeri".

It is believed that Hutu militiamen of the former Rwandan army were responsible for Saturday's attack in which three members of the Doctors of the World (Spain) team were killed in the north-westero town of Rubengeri. An American who had to have his leg amputated after being hit by hullets is said to be in a stable conditon.

"I was talking to our team in Ruhengeri by radio 20 minutes before they were killed," said Cristina Pardo of Doctors of the World yesterday. They said they heard some shooting outside. They decided to cut the communication hut when we rang hack there was no reply".

At least 10 agencies have pulled out of the area. Among them is Britain's Save the Children Fund (SCF) whose residence in Ruhengeri was hit in the attack.

The head of Rwandan intelligence has confirmed that Hutu rebels opposed to the Tutsidominated government have decided to target foreigners in order to destabilize the country.

Hutu extremists, who fled to Zaire after taking part in the 1994 genocide of half a million Rwandans, are believed to have heen among those who returned across the border into begged the media not to film. | Rwanda at the end of last year.

£1526<sup>33</sup> including VAT

## Official voice of Damascus comes cold off the presses

Damascus - The Syria Times arrives under the hotel bedroom door of every foreigner in Damascus. It makes unique reading. The world outside may rage at Syria's gates - threats from the Israelis, further condemnation by the United States for "subporting terrorism", Amnesty International reports decrying human rights abuses - hut the Syria Times is there to assure you that all is well in the best of all possible worlds.

And so, in a country where President Hafaz al-Assad's Baath "correctionist move-ment" (CM for aficionados) the bloodless coup d'etat in which Assad took power in 1970 - decides the future of Syria, the reader will not be bothered by editorial doubt. On the day its editor Walid

Shehadeh agreed to see me, the paper's domestic news headlines read as follows: "People's Assembly proud of CM's achieve-ments", "Damascus University Celebrates Glorious Achievement" and - an imperishable, Brezhnev-style title ahove columns four and five of page two - "Masses Continue Celebrations of Correctionist Movement Anniversary, More Projects Inaugurated."

There was an arts page -"Cultural Activities Mark the 26th Anniversary of the Correctionist Movement" - and two pages of foreign news (in which the word "occupied" had been placed before an agency dispatch from the West Bank). including a report of frightful new atrocities in Algeria and a clutch of editorials asking whether the Israeli Prime Minister will abide by UN resolu-tions for a total withdrawal from all occupied Arab land.

Conclusion: No. So when I called on Mr Shehadeh in the offices of his sister paper, the Baath-party run Tishreen, there was only the old, familiar smell of hot ink and



Robert Fisk continues his series on Syria with a look at the Syria Times – heavy reading for visitors

newsprint to remind me of what we used to call Fleet Street. I went straight to the point.

Wasn't the Syria Times a trifle boring? Mr Shehadeh smiled at mc with not a little impatience. "I think we have to remember that we have a cause, the cause of our occupied territories - Israel's greed and expansionism occupying Golan and southern Lehanon and the other Arab lands," he began. "I don't think that anybody can ignore these facts. We have to talk about

**≤** I went straight to the point and asked:

Wasn't the Syria Times a trifle boring? >

them every day and every night. It flows out of our blood. We have to know we are in danger. Perhaps people are bored because we say the same things, but we are in danger. We can be invaded at any time."

This was the authentic voice of every Syria Times editorial. "We have to catch anything that says something about the Israeli problem - but apart from this, I don't think the Syrian press is boring. Our literature pages. our features, talk about peace. However, for almost the whole of this century, we have fought against colonialism and aggres-

side. We expect a hostile (foreign] media and hostile attacks from the West. The minister of information [Mohamed Salman. a fellow Baath party member] is encouraging our press to be hrighter and livelier." And more lively – in Syrian

terms - Tishreen has become. Its foreign press reports are accurately translated and its criticism of domestic problems (à la Brezhnev) is growing. A few days earlier, Walid Mimari, in his daily "Rain Hour" column, had taken the minister of electricity to task for failing to alleviate long daily power cuts in three Damascus suburbs, and condemned the governor of Damascus for failing to im-

pose a smoking ban on commuter and inter-city buses. Three days later, there was criticism of Damascus University's English department for the behaviour of students who were smoking and singing. Two pages further on, Ghassan Salameh lampooned the authorities for the atrociously low pay of gov-

ernment civil servants. Destined for foreigners, the Syria Times is not even as daring as Tishreen. Could Mr Shehadeh therefore really justify a media controlled by the party? "We are in line with the policy laid down by the party," Mr She-hadeh replied. "And I believe, because of the situation in the Middle East and because of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its various repercussions, it's much better to have the press and media strengthened together

which makes the policy." But what would that policy be sive conspiracies from the out- if there was a real and just peace.

under the control of a body

I asked. "It's a hypothetical question but when this happens, there will he new talk, new thinking. If there is peace, the policy will change." And Mr Shehadeh proceeded to remind me of the Sykes-Picot agreement, the hreak-up of "greater Syria" after the First World War, the French creation of the state of Lebanon from Syria. And suddenly, he wanted to talk about Winston Churchill.

"I didn't like him hut I admired him. I think his behaviour in his country during the Second World War was admirable. He defended his country and showed his love of his homeland. This is part of our own feelings. Isn't the word 'patriotism' de-rived from the Latin 'father'?" But what was the point, I

asked, in having a joint security pact with Beirut when Syria could do nothing to prevent Israel's bombardment of southern Lebanon last April? "If Syria had responded - militarily, I mean - and sent its aircraft and tanks to defend Lebanon, what would have happened? Do you think the Israelis would have said: 'Oh, the Syrians have come, so we will retreat? No. It would have been war. The Syrian leadership adopted a wise policy - if they engaged in this conflict, there would have been an unstoppable situation. But at the same time, we never stopped our diplomatic pressure - with France, America - to establish an undertaking, and we ended with a memorandum of understanding, a good Syrian

achievement. "They made the Europeans and Americans recognise that it is the right of the people of Lebanon to resist occupation. A monitoring committee [with Syria] was created."

So the state of war continues, like the Svria Times. Next day. its editorial was headlined: "Israel defies peace, international law." Plus ça change.

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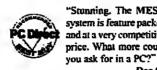
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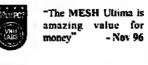
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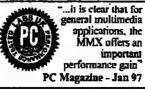
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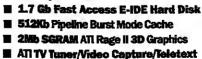
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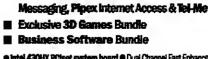
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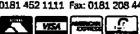
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# **Neville Crump**

Neville Crump's abilities as a most hostile, unapproachable trainer secured him two National Hunt trainers championships, three Grand Nationals, five Scottish Nationals and a hat-trick of Whitbread Gold Cups, establishing him as one of the leading post-war trainers.

a master trainer of high-class his third of three Grand Nastaying chasers that helped him make such an impact on the racing scene; ribald humour race Scott broke his collarbone and unswerving loyalty to in a racecourse fall. Few trainthose he employed were other trademarks.

The most famous tale about him concerns the time he was asked directions from his base at Middleham, North Yorkshire, to nearby Leyburn by a group of Japanese tourists. There is no polite way of recounting Crump's reply to such a simple request. Legend has it he told them: "You found your fucking way to Pearl Harbour. You can find your own fucking way to Leyburn."

Then there was the time Crump was asked if a certain elderly member of the aristocracy would make a suitable racecourse steward. Once again Crump's reply took no hostages.
"Oh, he'd be perfect," Crump said. "He's deaf, he's blind and he knows fuck all about racing."

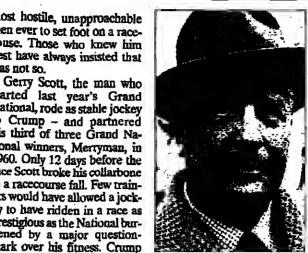
Such a response would make Crump appear to be one of the

men ever to set foot on a racecouse. Those who knew him best have always insisted that was not so.

started last year's Grand National, rode as stable jockey But it was not just his role as to Crump - and partnered tional winners. Merryman, in 1960. Only 12 days before the ers would have allowed a jockey to have ridden in a race as prestigious as the National burdened by a major questionmark over his fitness. Crump did, just as he had allowed Scott successfully to partner Springbok in the previous year's Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury with his wrist in plaster.

Scott has spoken of Crump being "more like a father" to him than a retaining trainer. The loyalty the older man showed to his jockey can be measured by the fact that Scott had visited Crump three times a week since his hospitalisation two years ago. Crump's other jockeys during his long training career. Arthur Thompson, Johnny East, Pat Buckley, and Colin Hawkins, were treated with the same lovalty.

Having first taken out a licence in 1937 - he retired only



in 1989 - Crump was champion trainer twice, in the 1951/52 and 1956/57 seasons, and in winning all the major staying chases in the calendar bar the Cheltenham Gold Cup, helped establish Middleham as a major training centre, one to rival the southern-based stronghold of Lambourn. As well as his trio of Aintree triumphs, he also won five Scottish Grand Nationals and two runnings of the Welsh equivalent.

Crump inherited his affinity for horses from his father Charles, who was a rancher in Australia before becoming a master of foxhounds in England.

Crump junior was educated at Mariborough and Balliol College, Oxford, before serving in the 4th Hussars, which led to a spell as riding instructor. After leaving that regiment, he acted as assistant trainer to Sonny Hall before setting up his own small yard on Salisbury Plain.

He returned to the army on the outbreak of the Second World War, which saw him posted to North Yorkshire after serving in the Middle East. After that he trained briefly in County Durham before beginning his long, successful link with Middleham.

It was 10 years after first taking out a trainer's licence that Crump made his first major impact on jump racing thanks to the Grand National victory of Sheila's Cottage, a tempera-mental mare who Crump nonetheless had huge affection for. She began Crump's National sequence with a onelength win over First of the Dandies at odds of 50-1.

That victory saw Crump be-come a "fashionable" name, and his string quickly expand from around six horses to nearly 30. Sheila's Cottage's success was followed a year later by the first of his quintet of Scottish National wins with Wot No Sun, a horse who was also twice placed

While some trainers wait a lifetime for Grand National success, only four years separated Crump's first and second triumphs, this time with Teal, whose stablemate Wot No Sun was third for good measure.

The first televised coverage of the National coincided with Crump's third win, with Merrymaster's runaway 15-length success. It was the last National before the formidable fences were modified.

That hat-trick of National wins-only Fred Rimell trained more winners of the hig spectacular - was undoubtedly the highlight of Crump's training career, but he also achieved a notable trio of wins in the Whithread Gold Cup with Much Obliged, Hoodwinked, and Dormant.

He was 72 years old when he won his fifth Scottish National with Canton. His fourth Scottish National win had come three years earlier with Salkfeld in the same season that he wor his second Welsh National with Narvik.

Richard Griffiths

Neville Franklin Crump, racehorse trainer: born Beckenham, Keru 27 December 1910; married Sylvia Bradley (died 1992; one daughter); died Scotch Corner, North Yorkshire 18 January 1997.

half produced a reply - in Greek. Redmond immediately

went in hot pursuit of his

Labour colleague Eddie

O'Hara, a former classics mas-

ter, and required him to provide

an immediate translation.

There followed a most rum-

hustious representation and

Redmond's constituents came

He was critical of some po-

lice forces during the miners'

strike but subsequently, in the

early 1990s, he completed an at-

tachment with the police to find

out more about their work. His

ambition then, as he went out

on motorway patrols, was to join

in the apprehension of speed-

ing parliamentarians regard-

less of friendship or political

persuasion. My wife usually

drove instead of me when he

Martin Redmond never mar-

ried. It is doubtful if his union

and political commitments gave

time for much private life. But

he loved children, even if he

authority. One of my sons, who

occasionally cleaned Martin's

car, regarded him as a summer

Santa Claus, for the payments

he received were utterly

was on patrol.

home.



Jack of all trades: Pickett (second from right) with the other

## **Kenny Pickett**

With Oasis dominating the front pages of the music and national press, the death of Kenny Pickett, lead singer with the seminal Sixties band The Creation, went rather unnoticed. Yet, before his band lent their name to Alan McGee's record label, this fine froutman and songwriter played a crucial role in the career of many other acts.

Born Kenneth George Pickett in 1952, he was educated at Hertford Grammar School. When the British Beat explosion happened in 1963, he worked as a driver for Neil Christian's Crusaders before taking on the stage name Kenny Lee and joining forces with Eddie Philips (guitar). Mick Thompson (guitar), John Dalton (bass) and Jack Jones (drums) to become the Mark Four. Signing to the Mercury label in early 1964, the band took the then usual cover version route and recorded versions of Bill Haley's "Rock Around the Clock" and Marvin Gaye's "Try 1t Baby".

When both singles flopped, Pickett and Philips tried their hands at songwriting and came up with the powerful "Hurt Me If You Will" which came out on Decca in August 1965. By then, the band had lost Thompson and replaced Dalton (who later joined the Kinks) by first Tony Cooke and subsequently Boh Garner. After a last single for Fontana entitled "Work All Day (Sleep All Night)", the never ever assisted parental their manager Tony Stratton-Smith and changed its name to The Creation, an expression Picketi had found in a Russian poetry book.

The quartet had all the right connections and were represented by the prestigious Robert Stigwood agency. In early 1966, Stratton-Smith hooked them up with the American producer Shel Talmy who had already helped the Kinks and The Who make an impact

Planet label and oversaw the recording of "Making Time" which came out in June that year. Described then by Phillips as "red with purple flashes", this dynamic, primal single only reached No 49 in the charts.

The Who and The Small Faces seemed to have the mod scene sewn up but The Creation built an incredible reputation as a live act. Eddie Phillips would play his guitar with a violin bow (a move later copied by Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page) while Pickett would spray paint all over a huge canvas which he'd later set fire to. "Biff Bang Pow!" indeed, as screamed the feedback-laden B-side of their next hit single, the catchy "Painter Man", which got as high as No 36 in the hit parade.

Things were looking up, but the volatile relationships within the band proved its undoing. In February 1967, Pickett caught the rest of the group rehearsing one of his songs, with Bob Garner as vocalist and Kim Gardner on bass, and walked out. The Creation struggled on, touring Germany with the Rolling Stones and releasing the album We Are Paintermen on Polydor there and in Holland and Scandinavia. In the meantime, Pickett became one of Shel Talmy's in-house songwriters but, the following year, after Eddie Phillips and Bob Garner's departure, Pickett rejoined, as a version of the psychedelic "How Does It Feel to Feel?" appeared on Polydor. In March 1968, Ron Wood joined for Dutch and German tours before The Creation finally split after

the release of Midway Down. Pickett became a jack of all trades, acting as tour manager for bands like Led Zeppelin and Steppenwolf and co-writing songs with Roger Cook for the likes of Blue Mink (of "Melting Pot" fame). However, he really struck gold with the infuriat-

signed The Creation to his for the actor Clive Dunn in 1971 and a children's radio favourite ever since. The ditty even earned Pickett (and his co-writer Herbie Flowers) the prestigious Ivor Novello award.

In the early Eighties, Pickett recorded as The Kennedy Express, continued to write sones and briefly reformed The Creation. When a British Rail employee, Alan McGee, launched his own record label in 1983, he immediately thought of his favourite psychedelic band and used its name as the title of the label ("Biff Bang Pow!" also provided him with an alias for his own group later). This obsession eventually led to The Creation signing to Creation and releasing a single called Creation" in 1994.

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The same year Pickett and his cohorts appeared at the label's 10th anniversary (held a year late) at the Royal Albert Hall alongside Boh Mould, The Boo Radleys and Oasis, whom they'd already supported in Manchester. Following a shortlived reconciliation of sorts. Pickett and Philips recorded the Power Surge album which eventually came out last year.

With Ocean Colour Scene and Paul Weller (always a Creation fan) once more extolling the virtues of mod and The Who reviving the quintessential mod movie and album Quadrophenia, Swinging London has gone full circle. Joe Foster, Head of Revola Records (re-release subsidiary of Creation), who did much to nurture The Creation's comehack, acknowledges that "Kenny Pickett had Jalsol brought his career full circle. More was planned but he went too soon."

Рісте Рептопе

Kenneth George Pickett, singer and songwriter, born Ware, Hertfordshire 3 September 1942; married Teri King (one son, one stepson, one stepdaughter); died London 10 January 1997.

#### **Martin Redmond**

Martin reached the height of office or the length of service achieved by an earlier Don Valley MP. Tom Williams, a notable Minister of Agriculture, but he was his logical successor as a man entering the House straight from the coal industry and the National Union of Mineworkers, a man with the deepest of local roots. That pattern may now and for ever be broken but it was good for Britain that it existed Parliament and local government need awkward, shrewd, kind and honest men. Redmond could be a one-man awkward squad when he chose.

The deep mines around Doncaster were sunk around the turn of the century and they required a large labour force. People were drawn there from all over Britain. Among them were numbers of Irishmen, including Redmond's family.

He was born in Scawsby, near Doncaster, in 1937 but moved as a boy to Adwick-le-Street and left school at 15, destined for the mine. However, coalfield, he volunteered for the army, becoming a superb driver and a junior NCO before returning to work in the coal industry, where he became active as a union member. He served as a member of

Doncaster Urhan District Council hefore local government reorganisation in 1974, and was elected to Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council in 1975. He soon became prominent there; he could not

Redmond never have been outshone. A tall, well-huilt man with an eye for style, his neatly trimmed beard made him look like a cross between Henry VIII and Edward VII. This contributed to his popularity and even though much of his industrial service was as a foreman/driver for the National Coal Board, he held the allegiance of the miners in the Doncaster area of the NUM, perhaps the most left-wing of the four Yorkshire areas of those days. However, whilst Redmond

was of the left he was his own man, always possessed of a sense of the practical. As a councillor he gave strong support to the leader of the council, Jim MacFarlane; and when MacFarlane died very suddenly in 1982, Redmond took over. In those days, before the dramatic government budget cuts, Doncaster Council was able to achieve a great deal to improve local conditions. Earlier, as a young teacher, I had taught boys from Denaby Main mining community, boys also destined like many young men from the for the pit, who lived in the crowded streets from which their grandfathers had been evicted in the strikes of the early years of this century. During Redmond's tenure on Doncaster Council, the Denaby Main area was transformed evidence of his commitment and of his practical approach to

council service. Redmond entered the Commons as Labour MP for Don Valley in 1983. Many members of parliament have local gov-

ernment experience, relatively few of such substantial character. Redmond made his maiden speech oo the Housing and Building Control Bill in 1983 and a second on the Coal Industry later that year but he was not at ease. His third speech, which gave him greater assurance, came about when one of my former students, a striking miner, and one of Redmond's constituents, told me about a prosecution for obstruction which he faced. The prosecution claimed that he had committed serious crimes, including armed rohbery, a few years earlier; but

on a date when he had actually been abroad on a package holiday. I had a constituent who had had a similar experience and I told Redmond he would either have to take part in the debate 1 secured in July 1984, or at least intervene in my speech. He decided to speak. Energy, commitment and indignation were gathered. A Conservative member sat down after a trite, rather patronising speech. Redmond's began in a hrutally explosive way. His confidence developed, and from then on he frequently, if softly, put forward a penetrating point.

In 1987 Redmond was elected to the Council of Europe and quickly gained esteem; he made it clear that he was not just a jovial Englishman. He was appointed a member of the Budget and Environment committees, and a rapporteur, concerned with the computerisation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (1993-94). Unfortunately health problems devel-oped and he had to withdraw from this role in the early 1990s. subsequently staying at his home close to Doncaster, and coming to the House only when it was politically imperative. But his interest was unabated and he maintained a heavy flow

Day Motions; some were very serious hut others seemed rather cryptic or occasionally comical in intention. Redmond had not planned to retire at the approaching election but at last he had to announce that intention. His attachment to his constituency remained enormous even during severe illness. He reacted

of written questions and Early

One delightful moment came when some of Redmond's constituents had been arrested in Athens. His enquiry on their be-

ferociously to the Boundary

Commission proposal to take

away part of his patch.



inflationary.

Manin Redmond, politician born Scawsby, South Yorkshire 15 August 1937; Member, Doncast er Borough Council 1975-83 Chairman of Labour Group and Leader of Council 1982-83; MP (Labour) for Don Valley 1983-97; died 20 January 1997.

Peter Hardy

on the British charts. Talmy ing "Grandad", a British No 1



#### Ian Smith

Whenever I saw broadcaster Ian Smith I recalled to myself an incident I had witnessed during our schooldays at about 9.30pm on 22 November 1963. He appeared at the top of the King Alfred House steps at King's College in Taunton and quietly said: "President Kennedy

He was then as calm and believable as he was to be later as a broadcaster and BBC television newsreader. At school as one of the very small group of senior prefects, he was an imposing and slightly detached fig-

ure. But he could be roused and when the school's Sheldon Society allowed a white South African student to give an address in support of apartheid it was immediately made known that 1.P.L. Smith would be boycotting the meeting.

This was an interesting stand because a year after Smith left school his namesake in Southern Rhodesia made his illegal declaration of independence and young Ian Smith was soon in that country reporting on the struggle against racial discrim-ination. Indeed, television viewers saw lan Smith interviewing

Smith joined BBC radio in his home city of Bristol after a year at York University where he allowed extra-curricular activity to dominate his life after the constrictions of school days. He moved into television at Plymouth, where he presented the regional news programme, and later in London became a founder reporter on BBC2's

Working on Newsnight and Panorama he covered a wide range of subjects from North-

ern Ireland and the miners' strike to salmon poaching. Presenting Newsnight he once memorably adapted the weather forecast script by promising what my grandmother used to call a perfect drying day".

He was also a veteran of the Cod War, having reported from a destroyer off Iceland, and a regular member of the BBC's party conferences team. His success as a journalist may have been helped by his ability to listen to interviewees. Many colhis patience when listening to a year on unpaid leave and the his life never returning to

them and the helpful advice given on personal matters.

Whilst he was a good reporter he wanted to be an even better skier. A person of tremendous energy, he discovered the sport in the 1970s having been an impressive tennis and squash player.

So concerned was he about his health that he once rang his physiotherapist in England from the slopes and exercised in the call box whilst listening to the instructions. He would leagues in the media confess to take up to three skiing holidays

obsession eventually caused him to leave the BBC for a job working with Will Hutton on a Swiss business channel which offered the chance to ski by day

and work by night. When the job ended he returned to London to work as a freelance both with the BBC and as a teacher of television skills. But this was also to be short lived for in 1992 he slipped whilst going over a glac-ier in the Alps and hit his head on ice. He was in hospital with brain damage for the rest of

either the family home in Wales nor his own Chiswick home handy for the BBC Television Centre. During the past five years,

when he could only glance at newspaper headlines, the friendship he offered in his happy working days was main-tained by busy colleagues who continued to visit him. Leigh Hatts

Ian Peter Leslie Smith, television journalist: born Bristol 3 May 1944: died London 6 January

## Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

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MORGAN: Peacefully, on 17 January, Dr Michael (former child psychiatrist at Neville Hall Hospital, Aber-gavenny), Functal Thursday 23 January, service at Cosheston Church. near Pembroke, at 12 moon. Dona-tions in licu for the Macmillan Ward, First Pembrokeshire Hospital, may be sent to the Funcral Directors, E.C. Thomas & Son, 34 Clarence Street, Pembroke Dock, South Wales.

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ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard pschold Caraby Mounted Replacest months ton't Life Trand at Barre Garoth, Hom, coppure Coldstroms Gizzels mounts the Goard, at Barleinghous Phine, 11 Men, band 1 by the Weith Ouards. Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. A. Norris and Miss R. F. Bain The engagement is announced between Paul, eldest son of Dr and Mrs David Norris, of Bristol, and Rosemary, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Bain, of Great Gaddesdon,

Birthdays Dr Alan Borg, Director, Victoria and Albert Museum, 55; Dr John Burnett, former Principal, Edinburgh University, 75; Dr David Carey, joint Registrar, Faculty Office, Archbishop of Canterbury, 80; Lord Cayzer, former chairman, Caledonian Investments, 87; The Rev John Coventry. former Master, St Edmund's House, Cambridge, 82; Mr John Denison, former general manager, Royal Festival Hall, 86; Mr Placido Domingo, operatic tenor, 56; Mr George Foulkes MP, 55; Dr John Hayes, former director, National Portrait Gallery, 68; Mr Kenneth Maginnis MP, 59; Sir George Humphrey Middleton, former diplomat, 87; Mr Jack Nicklaus, golfer, 57; Sir Nicholas Phillips, High Court, Judge, 59; Miss Seona Reid, director, Scottish Arts Council, 47; Mr Paul Scofield, actor, 75; Mr Martin Shaw, ector, 52; Mr Aubrey Singer, former Deputy Director-General, BBC, 70; Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Trow-

bridge, 77; Mr Laurence Whistler,

glass-engraver and writer, 85: Mr Norman Willis, former general secretary of the TUC, 64.

**Anniversaries** Births: Thomas Jonathan

("Stonewall") Jackson, Confederate general, 1824; Cristóbal Balenciaga, couturier, 1895; Christian ue countrier, 1905; Benny Hill (Alfred Hawthorn Hill), comedian, 1924. Deaths: Achim von Amim (Karl Joachim Friedrich Ludwig von Arnim), folklorist, playwright and poet, 1831; Lenin (Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov), Russian leader, 1924; Lyt-ton Giles Strachey, biographer and critic, 1932; George Orwell (Eric Arthur Blair), novelist, 1950; Cecil Blount de Mille, film director, 1959; Marie Löhr, actress, 1975. On this day: the Daily News, the newspaper edited by Charles Dickens, was first issued, 1846; taxi-cabs were first officially recognised in Britain, 1907; Edward VIII was proclaimed king, 1936. Today is the Feast Day of St Agnes, St Alban or Bartholomew Roe, St Epiphanius of Pavia, St Fructuosus of Tarragona, St Meinrad and St Patroclas of Troyes.

Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Nymphs and Shepherds (iii): Con-stable", tpm. Tate Gallery: David Mellor, "A Private View: Ted Power and his Col-

(Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Thorpe) 13 December 1996

> Where the material facts on whose basis a civil action had been conducted were known by the plaintiff to have altered, he was under a duty to disclose the fact to the defendant and the The Court of Appeal by a

majority (Lord Justice Evans dissenting) allowed an appeal by the defendant, Katherine Sarah Bosley, and reduced from £1,332,231.59 to £541,493.70 the damages awarded by Mr Justice Sedley on 30 January 1995 to the plaintiff, Peter Frazer Vernon. Dermod O'Brien QC and Daniel Pearce-Higgins (Howard Palser Grossman Hermer & Parmers) for the defendant; David Blunt QC and Jonathan Marks QC (Osborne Clarke, Bristol) for the plaintiff. Diana Cotton QC (Treasury Solicitor) as amicus curiac.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith said These judgments revealed that the plaintiff's claim was in re-

spect of nervous shock or psy-

chiatric injury suffered by him after witnessing the death of two daughters in a car accident. The defendant did not deny negligence but disputed that the plaintiff suffered posttraumatic stress disorder, as opposed to an extreme grief reaction, and argued that his subsequent psychological prob-

lems had other causes. The appeal court had already handed down draft judgments reducing the judge's award but no final order had been drawn up when, on 17 April 1996, Mr O'Brien received from an anonymous sender copies of a judgment given by Judge Mc-Naught in Gloucester County Court on 6 January 1995 in proceedings between the plaintiff and his wife relating to their children, and a judgment of the Court of Appeal on 4 July 1995 affirming his decision.

LAW REPORT 21 January 1997

Change in factual basis of case must be disclosed

had dramatically improved and he was substantially if not fully recovered.

The defendant applied for, and was granted, a rehearing of the appeal against Mr Justice Sedley's judgment. Further evidence was admined as to the plaintiff's mental condition at the time that judgment was given. Their Lordships concluded that the plaintiff had made a substantial recovery and that evidence of that recovery should have been disclosed to the defendant's advisers before Mr Justice Sed-

ley gave judgment. It was the duty of every litigant not to mislead the court or his opponent, not just by giving evidence known to be untrue, but also by leading the court to believe a certain state of affairs, once helieved to be true, but now no longer so. That duty continued until nor his lawyers in a civil case

argued before Mr Justice Sedwhich the plaintiff knew at the time, and his legal advisers knew shortly afterwards, did

not represent the true position. Unless the altered position was communicated to the would give judgment on a basis that was no longer true, and that was what happened here. Mr Blunt sought to rely on the difference between actively misleading and passively standing by and watching the court being misled. The classic example of the distinction was

did not: he was not obliged to disclose the convictions but he must not suggest his client was a man of good character. Similarly, neither the litigant

where a barrister knew his

client had previous convictions

but the court and prosecution

were bound to call witnesses whose evidence did not support their case.

ly court had been that the plaintiff's psychiatric health

the judge had given judgment. conducted on the basis of certain material facts which were an essential part of the case, in ley on the basis of evidence this case the plaintiff's condition at the time of the trial and the prognosis, which were discovered before judgment to be significantly different, the court was being misled, not by the defeudant's failure to put before judge there was a risk that he it material of which she could or should have been aware, but by the plaintiff's and his advisers' failure to correct an incorrect appreciation which the

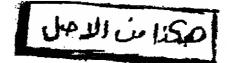
court would otherwise have. His Lordship accepted that the plaintiff's counsel had not deliberately intended to deceive the court. But they made a serious error of judgment in failing to advise him of the need to disclose. By the time the case came before the appeal court, they should have appreciated that they could no longer seek

to uphold the judgment. Paul Magrath, Barrister

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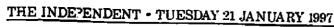
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## the leader page

# Old targets to test the mettle of new Labour

Briwn's tax and spending bombshell yesterday was with hauling hack borrowing, bringing tax down, and reducing spending. In consequence, voters rarely take what shaped nerely to win the coming election. Wrong. It is of course true that Go'don Brown's promises sticking to existing Conservative Labour still heats, and that the party's spending hudgets for two years, no activist instincts, when staff and serincrease in the hasic rate of income tax or a new top rate for all five years of the parliament - are likely to improve Lahour's chances of winning this year, so long as the electorate believe iim. But they are far, far more important for the election beyond. five years from now, and for Labour's chance of ever winning any subsequent :lection again.

Our cautious support for Gordon Brown's proposals is not based on the view trat income tax should never go up, ner on the belief that the Goverum nt's present spending plans are perfet in every way. Far from it. Actually here is a strong case for more progessive taxation, including higher and ower income tax rates. And, though the state does not need to expaid inexorably, it is possible to he persiaded that certain public service need more investment. In spite of all that, it is still right for the Labur Party, right now, to commit itsef to no overall increase in tax and

Lihour is hoxed in by its poor record. No one associates Lahour

Labour politicians say about tax and spending at face value. Everyone suspects that the old heart of old vices are under strain, will be to cry out for more money as the obvious answer. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown fight these traditional instincts, hut we know that they are having to fight them, and therefore they are still there.

Even Blair loyalists can't help themselves. Glenda Jackson made a terrific fuss this month about under-investment in London's Tuhe network. David Clark attacked government cuts in defence only yesterday. Yet the Government was absolutely right to start cutting defence spending; the MoD should he high on Lahour's list for a spending review if it wins the election. Can't Lahour politicians understand that lower spending (maybe, even, privatising services like underground commuter trains) is an important part of distributing social resources justly?

Until they do, until "new" Labour can prove that it can make halanced and fully informed decisions about spending while in power, rather than following more profligate instincts, voters will not trust the party's much-



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when and if a genuine and demonstrahle need arises.

So Gordon Brown is right. A new

Labour government should plan to spend two years getting to grips with existing hudgets, and working out how hest to spend them (a good principle anyway, after 18 years in opposition). Two years of austerity and prudence might set the public sector unions screaming, but it would do wonders for the credibility of a

vaunted change. Nor will anyone he facts at his fingertips. And who knows, willing to fork out in higher taxes during those months of management, many Lahour MPs may discover to their surprise that all kinds of radical and creative things are possible without demanding additional cash.

The same is true for taxes. When Labour politicians talk ahout raising taxes on the rich, again, no one takes their words at face value. For most voters, any Labour talk of tax changes is likely to hring the two words "thin" and "wedge" into close proximity. Lahour health minister finally Lahour has to prove in power that it requesting extra cash, with the full does not want to tax the rich out of

tanical zeal, before it can build a consensus for a more redistributive tax system. And if that means ruling out major income tax changes for a parliament, so be it.

Smooth speeches from a shadow Chancellor are only the start of tackling Labour's credibility deficit. The party will have to prove in government that it can actually put Gordon Brown's promises into practice. Swanning into Whitehall the day after the election, then throwing up their hands in borror and clucking, "We've seen the books, it is much, much worse than we thought," simply will not wash. Of course Labour politicians do not know all the details of the public finances. In truth, though, they know most of it, and, most importantly, they know what they don't know, and therefore what they should not make promises about.

Brown and Blair have taken a risk hy helting themselves in so tightly. Sticking to the control total for 1998/99 will not he easy for any government, Conservative or Labour. With so much to lose, they might come to wish they had given themselves more room to manoeuvre. But it is a good gamble, and a toughminded one.

There are those who think Mr Blair will vindicate his reform of the party simply by winning an election. But vic-

envy, and everyone else out of puri- tory itself is not enough. Labour will only prove itself to be truly "new" when it demonstrates that it can govern responsibly, stick to the promises it made the voters, and resist the temptation to indulge itself. Thereafter, maybe, voters will trust the party to redistribute wealth, and risk a new halance of spending. But not until then - and that prohably means not until a second term.

#### Meanwhile, back on the terraces

On the subject of new Labour, which party does Tom Pendry think he belongs to? There is everything old Labour about calling for a return to standing-only foothall terraces. Of course many fans yearn to go hack to the had old days when they could sway hack and forth in tribal ranks, spilling beer over their little cousins, straining hopelessly to see the game, and terrifying everyone else to death. But the single higgest reason for families returning to football is the arrival of allseater stadiums. It is not just about Heysel and Hillsborough, this demand for all-seater stands: it is about civilised environments encouraging civilised behaviour. It's a pity Mr Pendry does

Banana bonanza

warms the heart

Sir: 1 think that your editorial misses the point about

bargain? No, it's a banana",

to be assessed by standard

economic parameters.

"Bananaman" Phil Calcott ("A

15 January). This isn't an initiative

Seven years ago I was driving

with friends through New York City and got terribly lost, heading

out of Manhattan by mistake across the tolled Newark Bridge.

requests for help from other

nervous wreck.

drivers, met with standard New

York aggression and explctives,

and our car was soon a collective

As we came to the toll booth,

vithout the correct change, I

prepared for another round of

robust New York "conversation".

Instead, I was politely informed

fare" and waved through with a smile. The gesture and spirit

atmosphere of our car (and a

that "the lady ahead has paid your

behind it immediately changed the

Attempts to turn the car round, or

#### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

#### Why we need European single taxes

Sr: Sarah Helm's report (16 Jnuary) that France and (ermany favour a common i come tax and social security estem co-extensive with nembership of the proposed agle currency, should be relcomed in Britain as the best uropean news n a long time.

The present Maastricht fiscal onvergeoce crieria and monetary elationships have by themselves a eflationary hia. The economies ithin the single currency least ble to contain the upward creep of costs would ruffer the worst imployment/inflation trade-offs. These weakestregions would therefore bearthe hrunt of the costs of adaptation, in terms of unemploymen and industrial stagnation.

The most enterprising of the

unemployed vill migrate from such regions, aking their savings with them. Lical capital will similarly migate, leaving a depressed, inpoverished region in its wake

A similar process occurred in southern Itay after the Risorgimeno, and South Wales in the 1930s had a "balance of payments" reficit within the UK. owing to a bcal concentration of inefficient oal mines. Equilibrium in paymentflows was restored by the downwird crushing of average household neomes through a regional concentration of enforced redundances.

An anabgous threat was posed for Britais by the Maastricht arrangements as they stood. The plans revaled by Sarah Helm in principle provide a way out. Under a federal iscal system, a member state suffring a structural balance-d-payments deficit, owing to uncompetitive firms, will experience an inflow of funds for unemployment henefit as workers are mad redundant.

If thefiscal federalist plans mclude i European element m industril investment incentives, nationa measures to stimulate revival vill no longer be limited by the "naional rate-capping" effect of the Maastricht 3 per cent budgeary deficit ceiling. On the contray, such measures would attractmatching supplementary funding from Brussels.

A fical federal system in Europe would provide automatic compusating flows of funds to regions or member states suffering defici or de-industrialisation (the Britis case), and the European Unica economy could thereby achieve real convergence in productivity between its regions.

The danger is that our wretched part political leaderships will not realse the opportunity presented to tem by the Franco-German proposals until too late. CYXIL POHL Hekley, Essex

Sir John Redwood ("Jobless in Lipzig, taxed in Liverpool", 17 Jauary) may well be right about the logic of the process driving European Union: let the pound go tenorrow and next week your iterest rates will be fixed in Frankfurt, your taxes set in lrussels and your social benefits stem defined in Strashourg. He is prely right that the well-off ondoner will be paying taxes thich not only go to support the nemployed in Liverpool hnt to lose of Leipzig as well. And in 10 ars' time the Londoner's taxes ill go to support the unemployed

textile workers of Lodz. However, Mr Redwood's alliterative vein can run along the Paris-Bonn axis. The French taxpayer may accept having to pay

do the same for the unemployed happy when his taxes are distributed to Rostock by some people from Ravenna? Why should he be so different from his British counterpart? so keen to join the single currency when the British arguments against it apply to them as well? This question is heing carefully avoided in British debates about Europe. The closest thing to a British answer to it is to allege that the European political élites have conspired to stifle a debate in

only in Britain where such a when we consider the unwillingness of British dehate hefore an election. WOTTEK RAPPAK London SE4

puts Liverpool on road to nowhere", 17 January). May I offer him an explanation?

Britain, unlike Spain and Germany, has refused to sign up to the European Union Social Chapter. This makes our already depleted manufacturing base even more vulnerable.



taxes to support the unemployed of Rouen. Why should he want to of Rostock? And why should he be

Why are European countries which doubts about Europe would he aired in public and it is debate is open. This is a hit rich politicians to engage in such a

Sir: So John Major finds it "very surprising" that Ford has decided to take production of the Escort abroad because it is easier to make British workers redundant ("Ford

Mr Major should wake up to the fact that most European manufacturing companies are just that - they operate on a European stage. Isolation will inevitably be to our detriment and flexibility will mean nothing if we have no industry to be flexible with. MELISŠA HAWKER Fowlmere, Cambridgeshire

Tory betrayal of poor families

Sir: As a volunteer for Home-Start UK, I applaud Polly Toyubee's concern for families under stress ("Tory talk of family values covers another betrayal", 6 January).

During the past year, with two paid part-timers and about 30 volunteers, we have supported 85 families which included 206 children, only to be faced yet again by cuts in our meagre core funding hy the local council, which has little choice due to rate-capping.

Here is the human face of just

one of these statistics: Imagine that you are a 26-yearold mother of three children under six years of age. Your husband is currently unemployed and frequently drowns his sorrows in drink. You were brought up in a residential home, are semi-literate. and though you want the best for your children, you have had so

ignorant of what this entails. Your mother lives not 30 miles away but has yet to see your youngest child, since travelling by

little real mothering that you are

bus would be too expensive and difficult. You live on a council estate plagued by vandalism and petty crime. You have sold the kitchen table and chairs for other essentials. Non-payment of the TV licence led to a fine, which you have attempted to pay off for the first six months, but having fallen behind, you are being threatened by court

However, you are more concerned with the fact that your children are often ill, that there is not sufficient food in the house, no money till the end of the week and your six-year-old is constantly

bed-wetting.
For almost two years I visited this woman and her children weekly, along with another similar family, and I wonder if I played a part in her marriage surviving despite all the talk of divorce; whether she really would have been sent to prison had I not pleaded her case; did she and the children gain any real benefit from the outings, etc. It is impossible to quantify the support our unpaid volunteers give but we rest easy at night. Do all our politicians? EVE HOARE Merton, Oxfordshire

#### Royal model?

Sir. It seems very odd of the Post Office to celebrate the Queen's Golden Wedding year with a set of stamps showing the six wives of Henry VIII. PETÉR TATTON-BROWN

Seaton, Devon

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

#### Fear that drives teachers to quit

Sir: Public debate over the proposed changes in the teachers' superannuation scheme (article, 9 January, letters, 15 January) overlooks the most important aspect of the issue. Early retirement is in the gift of the employer, and employers allow it

to save money.
Funding per student in higher education has fallen by 25 per cent over the past five years and is due to decline by another 15 per cent by the end of the decade. New universities spend between half and two-thirds of their income on staff. The only way they can achieve these levels of "efficiency gains" is by reducing staffing. The best way of doing this is by encouraging early

A similar situation applies in schools and further education colleges, where governing bodies confronted with reductions in income have to look to staffing as the only area where large-scale economies can be found. Since the introduction of local management, redeployment has ceased to he an option and early retirement is the only alternative to compulsory redundancy. There can be few in education who have not met an out-of-work teacher of mature years who cannot get another joh

The present rush to heat the seeking to join a gravy train. In many cases the over-fifties are

windows when using a vacuum appliance, wheezing fits become a thing of the past, so the only certain answer, surely, is for houses to have vacuum exit points set into the walls, so no dust can because they are "too expensive". be released back into the house. As for asthma being related to

March deadline is not due to staff

queue of others behind) and touched all of us.

asking themselves: "Should I retire

in March on a pension, or stay on

and risk being made redundant and

having to survive until I am 60 with

no pension and no prospect of

Vacuum clue to

asthma puzzle

Sir: Your article on wheezing

disorders ("Moving house may

pose asthma danger", 15 January)

struck a chord.
As a qualified aircraft engineer

l am naturally familiar with the

phenomenon whereby air forced

velocity, and have wondered for

cleaner might be contributing to

some time whether the vacuum

One day, I used a vacuum

cleaner when the sun was shining.

and noticed that the exit point for

the air was throwing up clouds of

dust. Half an hour later, I was (as

usual) racked with wheezing.

1 have since discovered that for

the trouble of opening doors and

moving house, the answer is

simple. People moving either take

their old, dusty carpets with them

or else install new, fluff-prone

carpets, both of which require

ANDREW FENTON

Felbridge, Sussex

the "asthma" problem.

through a narrow gap increases its

another joh?" W A GOLDSPINK

Slough, Berkshire

The giving away of huge quantities of bananas, while making a small profit courtesy of Tesco, should not be assessed using life-cycle analysis techniques, as your editorial implies. Phil Calcott's gesture was much more ahout unconditional giving in a world dominated by "everything having its price" and an increasing fear of social interaction with

strangers. Also, what value do you place on fun? STEWART T BOYLE Rotherfield, East Sussex

Sir: Tesco's generosity over bananas ("Banana economics". 15 January) s not the only occasion on which it has made sacrifices for customers. Three years ago Tesco issued vouchers to students at Bristol University entitling them to 50p off sandwiches. This coincided with a half-price sandwich offer. For a week we were able to purchase egg-and-cress sandwiches at a price of approximately 5p. For us there was such a thing as a free lunch.
HELEN SIMPSON

#### Give it the elbow

Sir: The advertisement for Ford cars on pages 14/15 nf 16 January shows two young boys being swung off the ground at arms' length by an adult. This manoeuvre is potentially dangerous because of the risk of dislocation to joints in the arm. One can only speculate how many times these boys would have been subjected to this in order to get the desired "shot".

Every year many children suffer pulled elbows in this way, and it was irresponsible to print this. I wonder if you would have felt less comfortable showing two dogs being swung by their tails. Dr THOMAS J ULAHANNAN MRCP

Oxford

Orpington, Kent

Danger: learning

Sir. On the subject of homework for schoolchildren (leading article, 14 January; letters, 16 January), I was once teaching at a secondary modern school. The question of homework came up, and one boy said: "My dad don't agree with homework. He says yon only set it so as we can learn more." J T HUGHES

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# Scourge of the Brontës returns

Tuberculosis is not confined to literature, and it is not under control in Britain today, despite what the doctors say. The NHS has been breeding this terrible disease in its wards, says Jack O'Sullivan

healthy enough - as well as you or I. all three Brontë sisters, Anne, Emily and Charlotte were active, successful writers. Yet even at the moment this picture was painted, each was probably infected with the disease that would eventually kill them. Tuberculosis - an airborne infection that they would have called consumption - ravaged the entire Bronte family, including Branwell, the only son, who painted this picture. But it didn't kill them suddenly. After during childhood by their consumptive father, Patrick, in the closeted environment of a Haworth vicarage – it took years before the children developed the symptoms (emaciation, persistent cough, racing pulse and night sweats) which show that a latent infection has become

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ing some chest specialists. They believe that the NHS has been dangerously complacent in failing to learn all the lessons of the huge 1992-93 TB outbreak in New York, which has cost hundreds of millions of dollars. They say TB surveillance has been slack, infection control in hospitals poor, and that the whole problem has not been taken seriously enough.

Privy to the latest research, these experts suspect there is a great deal more TB being spread in Britain than is suggested by official figures. They fear that in a few years, TB, which John Bunyan called "cap-tain of all the men of death", could again be a serious killer, particularly since strains resistant to drug treatment (MDR TB) are now in circulation.

This is not the official view. Developing countries and parts TB what canaries were to minof the United States may have seen dramatic increases in TB, It is precisely this capacity for but most professionals, proud of infected with TB may take 30

Infected by latent tuberculosis; the Brontë sisters, Anne, Emily and Charlotte (left to right) Britain's good reputation for public health, believe the NHS has cracked the problem. The statistics seem to bear out their confidence, Although the number of notified TB cases in Britain rose during the Eighties after falling for the previous 40 years, the figure has stayed steady at around 5,600 new cases for each of the past three years.

suggest no need for concern. But the early signs of NHS failure are showing up in people with low levels of immunity particular, people with Aids). They are developing the age-old symptoms that claimed so many historic figures, from Keats and Shelley to Nicolo Paganini, in the "white plague". The immuno-suppressed are to ers, predictors of unseen dangers. Whereas a healthy person

years to develop the actual disease, someone with HIV can fall ill within a fortnight. Their susceptibility

demonstrated in 1995, during serious outbreaks of tuberculosis among Aids patients in two London hospitals - St Thomas's and Chelsea & Westminster. In each case a patient had been present on the ward suffering from tuberculosis. By coughing, the patient infected others with So, although there is concern that homelessness and rising multi-drug resistant (MDR) deprivation provides a breeding TB. Several died. ground for TB, the statistics

> few who survived the Chelsea Westminster MDR out-& break. Eighteen months later, he is still on six TB drugs plus an injection three times a week.
> "I'll be on medication for the rest of my life. I lost my home. my partner, I was locked in a room for three months. At one point I was given 10 weeks to live. When you already have Aids, it is the equivalent of having two potentially fatal ill-nesses." The side effects of the drugs are nasty. "Streptomycin makes my face go numb. I suffer terrible insomnia. One of the drugs can cause psychosis if

Old friends who are HIVpositive shun him, even though he is no longer infectious. "They are frightened of the disease. It's very lonely. I've not found anyone who understands how I feel. Completely filthy. I'm full of such anger about the way I was infected." You can almost hear Keats's own angry line: "Youth grows pale, and spectre thin, and dies."

there is a build-up.

hospitals. Dr Anton Pozniak, senior lecturer at King's College School of Medicine in south London, has documented one such hospital outhreak. It went unnoticed until months later when scientists spotted that a group of people with TB had a strain with the same mol-

ecular make-up - they had all been in that hospital around the same time. These outbreaks could have been worse. In one hospital in Argentina, I62 patients went down with MDR TB over a Paul Mayho, 26, is one of the three-year period. Some had a TB strain resistant to 10 drugs.

Most are dead. The NHS has

seen nothing on this scale. uring outbreaks, it is difficult to discover how many people have been infected, beyond the Aids patients who actually develop the disease. There is a skin test, which reveals exposure to TB bacteria, but it is of little help. Most Britons give a positive reading because the test reacts to the childhood BCG vaccination - an injection providing limited protection against TB. In short, until people get sick, we don't know how much newly-transmitted (and possibly drug-resistant) TB is dormant

in the population. So you would expect great attention to be paid to the health of the "tuberculosis canaries", not least because of their vulnerability. Yet we have little reliable information on the incidence of TB disease within this crucial population. as low as 30 per cent, according to a paper published a year ago in the British Medical Journal by Dr Meirion Evans, a leading consultant in communicable diseases.

The reason for such reti-cence is the desire among HIV doctors to respect their patients' privacy. Dr Pozniak explains: "If these doctors notify a case of tuberculosis to public health officials, then it means the patient must be followed up at home and contacts traced. They fear that the confidentiality of the patient with

HIV will be broken." However, preliminary data from an important new study involving several London hospitals is filling out the picture of what may be happening. Dr Richard Coker, a consultant physician specialising in TB and HIV at St Mary's Hospital, London, has discovered a worrying increase in the proportion of HIV-positive patients who have developed TB in the past three years. Dr Coker said: "Last year less than 10 per cent of HIV in-patients being looked after in St Mary's were being treated for TB. This year, half of my HIV in-patients have a diagnosis of TB."

In short, TB infection seems definitely to be on the increase. The TB canaries - the HIV population - are the first vicims of NHS failures. "Our preliminary findings suggest that TB control in Britain is not as good we thought it was," says Dr Coker. "This could portend hadly for the future. As a There have been other Notification rates of tubercu-healthy person, I may have Dr Coker recalls the case of ship of the Communpublicised outbreaks in NHS losis in people with HIV may be been exposed to MDR TB. If, a Somalian man. "He told immi-for New York."

By courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London in 20 years, I get leukaemia or become immuno-suppressed for other reasons, my TB may activate and I will be sick with an infection which is not susceptible to drugs. This will be as a direct consequence of what

is happening now." Dr Coker's fears are supported by the findings of Dr Diane Bennett at the UK's Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre. People with HIV are 100 times more likely than the general population to develop TB. And when they do, it is 1,000 times more likely to be MDR, the new, drug-resistant strain of TB whose presence suggests recent infection.

How did we get into this

mess? First, the public health system moved too slowly. Despite the rapid rise of tuberculosis, including MDR, in third world countries, monitoring at British ports has been inadequate. The port authorities are supposed to tell public health officials to follow up all immigrants planning to stay here for more than six months. But active TB cases are slipping through, says Dr Peter Ormerod, chairman of the Joint Tuberculosis Committee of the British Thoracic Society. "It's an immigration system, not a public health system, with only a quarter of all new immigrants referred to port health units." This is worrying because some immigrants are infected with TB. We know this because the incidence of active TB in hlack Africans in Britain rose by 135 per cent between

1988 and 1993.

gration officers that is had been diagnosed in Somali with TE After he went through imm gration, he was sent ofto a hold ing building for impigrants Then he went to two hostel where there were other efugee He finally turned up with us because he was severel unwell By then he had been here for month and was subsquently diagnosed as having purnonar TB and as HIV-positiv. Man people will have been uneces sarily exposed to TB."

Dr Peter Davies, a TB physician at Sefton Genera Hospital, says: We have also created the conditions or the spread of TB in hospitas. It is wrong that people with HIV are more often than notherns nursed on the same infetious lisease wards as TB palents. They may be in separatecubicles, but people will stillwalk out and mix in day room.

nother problem if the availability of nusing care in the community. TB treatment, even for dugsensitive strains, can involve a six-month course of drug. If the patient does not comply properly, a more viruling drug-resistant strain of IB might evolve. In the case of such drug-resistant TB a patient may, like Paul Mayo become totally friendless and isolated. Unless a nurse is available that patient may to carry on treatment.

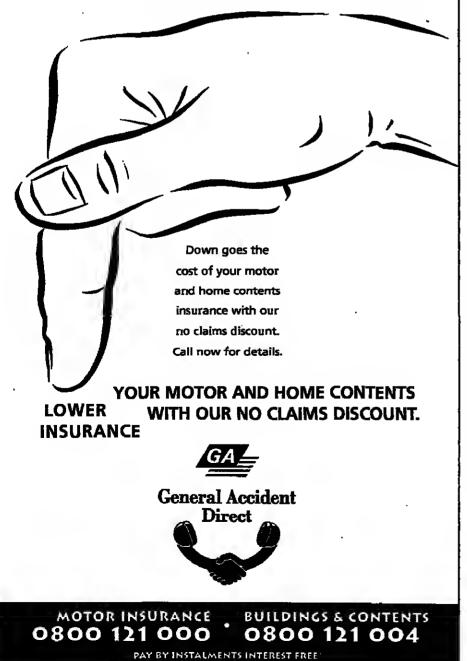
Yet, according to Dr Per Ormerod, there is a serious shortage of TB nurses. "What happens in a town where ve have 150 TB cases a year a one TB nurse, who has weeks holidly a year? The B doesn't go away when she's nt

The NHS is belatedly taking action. Guidance will shortly b published on a nationwide stra egy. Some hopitals are consid ering building geographicall separate facilities for TB an HIV patients A pilot project under way a Heathrow to improve the monitoring of immigrants, with electronic messaging to ectors replacing the old snail-bace system of tipping them off. New systems are being put inplace to protec patient confidentiality so that doctors dealing with HIV-positive patients wil improve notification of TB dises.

But all this is being done five years too late. Ve have yet to calculate the personal cost of this delay. We know that many HIV-positive patents may have died earlier than hey otherwise would. In a few lears, we may find there are more victims, in the general population, who may spend years in treatment that could have been avoided.

It's a story that's familiar in the history of TB Machiavelli hit on the truth in The Prince when he remarke that "consumption in the commence ment is easy to cut and difficult to understand; but when it has neither been dicovered in due time nor tretted upor proper principle, i becomes easy to understand ad difficult to cure.'

The author's Tubeculosis America's Health Rit' is published by the Harknes Fellow-ship of the Commonwelth Funa



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#### Ronnie's gigs with the Cricklewood Casuals writer has said. Ronnie Scott best place in the world for me

Sir, I feel the death of Ronnie Scott cannot be allowed to pass without some reference to his deep and abiding love of cricket. Although best known for his work in the jazz field, he shared with many other jazz musicians a fondness for our great national game and would often turn out in his early days for our local team, the Cricklewood Casuals.

I remember fielding next to him in the slips one day, and saying to him, "Ronnie" - Ronaie was what we always called him - "Ronnie, you are a creature of the night. How can you play such a sunlight game? You rise and do your work at night, often not retiring to bed before first light. How can your body clock allow you to rise during the day in time for a whole game of cricket?"

There came no answer from Scott's bending figure. Then, after a moment, there came a loud snore. Scott was fast asleep in the slips! How we laughed! Yours etc.

From Mr Reg Wallon Sir, I must endorse everything that the previous took a keen interest in many sports besides cricket, possibly because he had a compulsion to bet on the outcome of so many events. I believe he would spend hours in the back room of his jazz

club watching horses races, and that one of the very few ways you could get through to him on the phone was to ring up and pretend to be a stable boy with a tip. I was once playing with him in the old Cricklewood Casuals Second XI (he had actually been picked for the

First XI but they were playing away in Suffolk, and he had refused to go, saying, "I'm not doing any more out-of-town gigs this month"), and he was but on to bowl in the last over, when the other side, with their first wicket standing, just needed 17 runs to win. Before he bowled the first ball, he said to me, "Bit of a moral dilemma here, Reg. I've placed 50 quid on the other side to win. Could be some loose bowling in this over ...

He then bowled 10 wides in succession. After that he winked at me, said, "Just kidding," and clean bowled the last batsman next



Miles Kington

ball. A lovely man. Yours, etc.

From Sir Arthur Scrapie Sir, I think I may have already mentioned that Ronnie Scott could get through a whole over of cricket fast asleep without falling over. When I asked him how this was possible, he said that nothing was easier. He had quite often played entire evenings at out-oftown jazz clubs and been fast

asleep throughout. "I tell you what, though." he said. "Being a jazz musician, working nights and sleeping days, means that the to go on holiday is Australia. When you fly to Australia, you are immediately acclimatised when you arrive you're awake by day and asleep by night.

Then he nodded off again. Yours, etc. From Jim Wallrush

Sir. You might not think that jazz and cricket would mix very well, but Ronnie Scott took advantage of the terminology of jazz when he was bowling to communicate with his wicket-keeper and let him know what to expect. Slow numbers in jazz are often called ballads, so if he was about to bowl his slow one, he would call out "Ballad coming up". Similarly, he might say "Up tempo" for a fast one. Occasionally he would whistle a tune which I recognised as one of Hoagy Carmichael's old songs, though I couldn't make out which. I asked our wicket-keeper if it meant

"That's Hong Kong Blues," he said. "Means he's going to try a Chinaman. This didn't always work. I remember once he was hit all

anything to him.

over the ground by one batsman, who turned ou to be a local drummer and ould understand everything Runnie was trying to keep secret After he had hit him for aree successive boundaries, the drummer said, "Keep swapping fours, shall we, h, Ronnie?" I don't know wat it meant, but it didn't best please Ronnie. Yours etc.

From Mr Bobby Randell Sir, The only time I ever net Ronnie Scott, he wasn't there. I had been asked to turn out for a cricket team called the All Star Jazz XI. and one of the reasons I agreed to play was that Ronnie Scott, whom I had never met, was playing in the team. Well, none of the players looked very much lik nim so I said to the bloke beside me in the slips, who was a young guy, that I had hoped to meet Ronnie Scott.

Well, you won't today," he said. "He's gone off to play in another cricket match He sent me in as a dep."

And do you know, it turned out that all II of us were deps! Well, that's jazz for you. Or do I mean cricket? Yours, etc.

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Edward Edward

promising two years of keeping

within the present spending

totals, and precluding increases

in income tax for the entire par-

liament, he has certainly

imposed unprecedented con-

straints oo an incoming Labour

government. But he refused a

hlanket pledge to keep "more

than 200° tax exemption reliefs,

and allowances embedded into

the revenue system. lo theory,

and at the most ludicrously extreme, he could abolish

Mortgage Interest Tax Relief,

reduce personal allowances, tax

child benefit for higher rate

payers, and reduce reliefs for

private pensions, without

hreaching the terms of yester-

day's speech. To do all of that

at once would scarcely be sus-

tainable for a Labour govern-

ment seeking a second term. But he has left some room for

redistribution through taxes

and/or to raise revenue if dire

economic circumstances impel

it to be done. As they may well

or Bond Street's

higgest art and

antique dealers,

taking a gamble is

all part of the game. Is that a Constable hid-

ing under the grime? Could that hlue and white Chinese

vase turn out to be 14th cen-

tury? But today, some of them

are facing the higgest and least amusing gamble of their

careers: should they move their businesses to New York or stay

in London - where new taxes

imposed by Brussels could

Alarm bells echoed down the Street this month when the

venerable picture dealers Pace

Wildenstein announced that,

after 60 years, they would not be renewing the lease of his-toric 147 Bond Street, a

17th-century property which boused Lord Nelson as he con-

valesced after losing an arm, and which was one of the first

purpose-built commercial art

galleries. They will trade from

offices while maintaining their

est dealer in Chinese artworks,

London-hased Giuseppe Eskenazi, renewed his threat to

decamp to New York, despite

having spent £4m refurbishing his Clifford Street gallery. And Johnny Van Haeften, renowned dealer in 17th and

18th century Dutch paintings,

described art dealing in Lon-

don as a dying profession. "It's no fun any more," he said. "I can't wait to retire." He is 45. Grousers in leather arm-

chairs? Fogeyish Europhobes?

Not this time. European dealers

and auctioneers are jealous of

the London market, the Brus-

sels bureaucrats mean husiness

and the new EU regulations -

no fewer than three different

begun to bite. They are: a 5 per

their heirs) from next year, on

All three are a powerful

deterrent to the London mar-

ket's regular huyers and sellers

smuggling of antiquities.

Yesterday, the world's great-

gallery in New York.

bankrupt them?

Sleight of hand from a would-be Chancellor

as Gordon Brown discovered the fiscal equi-L valent of the perpetual motion machine? No increase in standard income tax. No widening of the VAT base. No new top rate of tax. No increase in spending. But a better, fairer

JANUARY 1997 - THE INDEPEN

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Or have he and Tooy Blair fallen into the trap that ensnared, disastrously. Hugh Gaitskell and his then shadow chancellor Harold Wilson during the 1959 election cam-

paign?
Then, as now, the economy was improving. Then, as oow, the Tories were exhorting the electorate: "Don't let Labour ruin it." And then, as Gordon Brown did yesterday, Gaitskell promised oo increase in in-come tax. All those wonderful aspirations Labour had, includmg a hefty increase in the old age pension, would be paid for

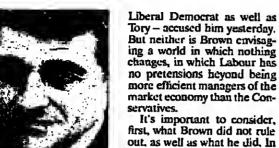
out of economic growth. When Aneurin Bevan was told about Gaitskell's campaign speech promising no increase in income tax during "peacetime", he said brutally and correctly - that "He's thrown it away. He's lost the election." The voters couldn't square the circle; they couldn't believe Gaitskell's "nobody gets hurt" theory of politics. The Tories won by 101 seats.

Brown's speech yesterday is at once the replacement for. and the antithesis of, the shadow hudget which John Smith was forced

by the party's huge spending commitments on pensions and child benefit to introduce before the last election. It is the final expression of Brown's disengagement of his party, not just from those commitments, but from the assumptions that underlay them. There will be 00 more news on tax from Labour between now and polling day. And even if it doesn't invite the same answer, it poses the same ques-tions that Gaitskell's fatal 1959 speech did: is it believable, and, if it is, what is Labour offering that makes it worth voting for?

It's true that those with the highest hopes now riding on the windfall tax have inflated its value to £10bn. That's an impressive sum to spend on bringing hope to a generation threat-ened with permanent exclusion from the world of work. But the windfall tax isn't just controversial and of uncertain yield. It's a one-off. The money, once spent, is gone. Tax cuts, including a new starting rate for the poor of 10p in the pound, are supposed to be for ever. take years to rebuild. An NHS that promises to be more, in the next century, than something from which everyone who can afford to, flees, will need more than the sacking of a few hundred adminstrators to flourish.

Brown knows this; which is one reason wby his announcement yesterday, though not with-out its risks, doesn't fall apart in the way that Gaitskell's did. The markets, relentlessly heatseeking, would not, as he also knows, allow a and spending plans he has set himself a daunt-Labour Chancellor to sustain the bogus equation on tax and spending of which his critics - ented task. But it was no conjuring trick.



Donald Macintyre Has Gordon Brown the magic recipe: a foolproof fiscal plan to help the

poor?

do, whoever wins the election. What he can't now do in the first two years is use even that form of increased taxation to finance extra spending (though it isn't precluded after that). The real message of yesterday's speech is that Brown has learnt the hard lesson of previous Labour governments which have rushed to fulfil expensive spending commitments, only to pay for them later, usually with their lives. By impos-ing the discipline, he sought to reverse the process by ensuring that ministers, instead of fighting for their share of a spending increase, will be forced to search collectively and individually for savings to pay for cherished pro-grammes. And some of these will be oaturally easier after an election than before. No Labour politician, for example, dares breathe even a word about defence savings before polling day.

Welfare reform remains the favoured source

of new funds. But expect the promised Defence

Review to be an early priority.

Brown knows it is not going to be easy. If maintaining discipline on spending in opposition has been tough, imagine how much narder it will be in government, when spending minister, impatient for results, is bolstered by powerful civil servants who regard victory in a public expenditure round as the only reliable symbol of departmental virility. And when the public sector unions' expectations of a Labour government are all the keener after 18 years of increasingly depleted power. Brown had already sought to reassure the markets on borrowing. In outlining his tax ing, and, for a Labour Chancellor, impreced-

# Buying a Picasso? Do it in New York

by John Windsor



PICASSO AT A PREMIUM: This is how the proposed regulations could make a single ones - have teeth that have auction transaction in London more than a million dollars more expensive than in New York. Picasso's Le Miroir (above) fetched a hammer price of \$18,2m at Christie's New York in November 1995. In addition, tha huyer paid Christie's commission of \$1,822,500 – 15 per cent on the first \$50,000 and 10 per cent on the rest of the hammer price – bringing the full price to \$20,022,500. The seller paid Christie's commission of 2 per cent of the hammer price plus their expenses (insurance, etc) of 0.5 per cent, totaling \$455,000. Total charges for the transaction: \$2,277,500. Under cent tax on artworks imported into the EU (Britain so far pays only 2.5 per cent); a proposed 2 or 4 per cent droit de suite tax (on proceeds to living artists or proposed EU regulations, if the same picture were sold at a London auction to a the sale of artworks less than 70 European, there would be additional charges; the buyer would have to pay a 5 per cent import tax on the \$20,022,500 – that is, \$1,001,125, (in sterling, of course), and the vendor would have to pay an additional 2 per cent 'droit de suite' – that is, \$400,450. lotal extra charges; \$1,401,575. The London transaction would therefore cost a total years old; and stringent export regulations intended to curb of \$3,679,075 - 61.5 per cent more expensive than in New York.

of artworks living in non-EU Hong Kong.
Already, the 2.5 per cent countries, but the EU as a

whole will be the loser. The winners will be dealers and auctioneers outside the EU import tax has caused measurable damage to the London who have fostered hureautrade. Last year, while UK cracy-free markets - in New exports of art and antiques to non-EU countries rose by 4 per cent, imports fell by 17 per York, whose turnover overtook London's in the Eighties, in Geneva and Zurich, and in cent. Anthony Browne, a

South-east Asia, especially Christie's director who is chairman of the British Art Market Federacion of dealers and auctiooeers, a pressure group formed last May to combat the EU threat, says: "This is the first time to my knowledge that imports have fallen while

exports have risen.
"It is a ludicrous situation.

Smith above Richard Dawkins

(though you could argue that

the former has more encour-

aging things to say about the purpose of physical pleasure). And you have to be semi-suspicious about any judge-ment that clusters child fantas-ies such as Kameth Grahama

ists such as Kenneth Grahame, AA Milne, CS Lewis and

JRR Tolkien among the top 30, or one that regards Jurassic

Park and The Horse Whisperer

as even mentionable in respect-

But that's not the point. What

makes the list so fascinating, so

talkable-about, is precisely its banal, eclectic, barmily accurate

summary of what would prob-

ably appear on an averagely educated, averagely middle-

class shelf in a not-very-bookish

bome. It does, in fact, reflect

There's an additional value

to a list like this. Ask yourself,

how many of those titles are

books (such as The Master and

Margarita) that you thought you knew about, but have never

in fact read? Weren't you re-

minded of books, such as A

Suitable Boy, that you never got

round to reading but meant to

what people really read.

able company.

Why impose a disadvantage on London that will drive the trade out of the EU altogether? We don't need a level playing field with Paris. We need a level playing field with the rest of the world. The EU is shooting itself in the foot."

The art trade elsewhere in the EU, apart from Paris, is

predominantly domestic. Hence the Euro-jealousy of the truly international market in London, world centre of connoisseurship for more than two centuries. The London market, with up to two-thirds of its trade coming from non-EU countries, turns over £2.1bo a year, compared to £3.5bn to £4bn for the EU as a whole, Britain included. The British themselves are not great buyers of art. But the London art market is as the City of London is to world finance: an interna-tional entrepot. With New York its chief challenger.

Faced with a choice between New York's open market and London's EU taxes and antismuggling strictures, where will non-EU vendors, the Japanese for example, choose to consign their treasures? A survey by the Department of Trade and lodustry has estimated that droit de suite alone could roh the UK of an annual £68m in art sales and 5,000 jobs in the art trade. The noble intection of droit de suite is to succour starving artists in garrets, but in France 75 per cent of its revenue has been found to be channelled to a wealthy élite of six families, including Picasso's. Mr Eskenazi, 57, who came

to England from Milan aged 12, has a turnover of some £20m. Because of his scholarship, which is equal to that of any museum curator, he can sell Chinese bronzes for £1 m or so. For the first time, he has organised a selling exhibition in New York, coinciding with the International Asian Art Fair there in March. "Maybe I'm just testing the water in New York out of desperation for what's happening here," he says. "The British government doesn't seem to understand the harm it's doing. It's as if we are heing pushed out. If they go on pushing I shall

How many other London dealers are thinking of pulling out to New York? Johnny Van Haeften says: "I think we all are. It's a nightmare. What advantage has any collector in Switzerland [a non-EU country] in sending a picture for sale in London these days?
In New York, a leading Chi-

nese artworks dealer. James Lally, says: "It's more congenial here. More and more London dealers are coming to meet clicots. And Giuseppe's forthcoming exhibition speaks volumes about the direction business is taking. If well-lo-do collectors cannot play in London, they have no trouble finding other places to play."

# Why Burke is in fashion

Attitudes to revolution are under the spotlight, says David Walker

Expect to hear a great deal about the French Revolution of 1789, the pivotal event of modern history. Attitudes to it have become a key test of political personality and philosophy. The world divides into those who think it a glorious thing, marred and hloodstained, yes, hut inspired by the profoundest of human motivations - hope for change - and those to whom it was hateful, unnatural and

Since revolutions tend to upset the natural order of property and possession, the powers-that-be have always been well represented among the latter group and well disposed towards conservative parties and propagandists. In societies frightened of change, counter-revolutionaries get a better hearing, which is wby during the coming year we will hear a lot about the French Revolution's great antagonist, Edmund Burke, this being the hicentenary of his death in 1797.

There is going to be a boom in Burke-ana. The right-wing Social Affairs Unit has already put out a pamphlet, Ian Crowe's Unwelcome Truths (why Burke would hate the European Union, human rights and constitutional reform). A BBC Radio 3 series is being planned for July. There will be several new books, including Edmund Burke and Our Present Discontents by Jim McCue (why Burke would hate the EU, human rights and constitutional reform).

The right-wing press will play up a storm. The Times has already weighed in with a piece by Conor Cruise O'Brien - one of the clearest heads of our time, gone to muddled intemperance - in which Burke, a passionate, if eloset, Irish Catholic nationalist, is prayed in aid of maintaining

the status quo in Ulster. The owner of the Daily Mail, Lord Rothermere, once memorably said: why keep a dog and bark yourself? And this is the role to which Burke has been reduced, a posthumous guard dog for all those who fear political experiment, fear democracy. fear any attempt to make society fairer by means of progressive taxation, fear restraint on property.



Yet Edmund Burke's credentials for becoming a Tory icon are not obvious. "He resists easy categorisation," says Simon Coates, producer of the Radin 3 series, which will feature the far-from-right-wing Terry Eagleton among its contributors. Here was a boy from Ballydoff who made it to opening bat for Lord Rockingham's XI, an Irishman in the pay of English Whig grandees, a friend of the Boston teapartyers, who argued for government intervention in one of the biggest businesses of the day - the East India Company - a Jacobite who publicly affirmed his loyalty to the Hanoverian usurpers. Inconsistencies abound, but no more than you might expect from a political placeman anxious to keep his patrons sweet and the cash flowing in.

Burke defending the revolting Americans, or Burke telling the electors of Bristol that he proposed to do his own thing in the Commons, would never have become a Tory pin-up. What ensured him a place in the pantheon, and money from Rupert Murdoch for seminars by Burke fans, was Reflections on the Revolution in Social Affairs Unit.

France, published in 1790, barely months after the Bastille was stormed. Even Burke's Tory standard-bearers

would not claim it as a work of political philosophy. It is a polemic, a brilliant piece of journalism (defined as writing where style and effect will always triumph over analytic depth and consistency).

Whatever else this was, it was hugely effective propaganda, a must-read for any-one who feared that the Reds or the Dissenters or the pike-waving masses were about to descend on their palace gates. What starts as an ettack on revolution becomes, perhaps inevitably, a defence of the status quo, meaning the present distrib-ution of property and political power in England. That capital was, even as he wrote, subverting the way of life of thousands of English people, mostly low-born, was a fact to which Burke was hlind; the only change he objected to was willed change, of the kind you find in manifestos.

To say that Conservatism has heeo potent in British history would be wrong, if by Conservatism is understood some coherent body of doctrine. What has been potent is Tory journalism, stylish, flashy arguments for preserving what is and those that own it, usually constructed in the form of attack on the insurgents and advocates of change. Burke is the patron saint of the kind of journalism carried by the Spectator - the conceit of clubmen, mocking the manners and pretensions of those out there. The very fact that Burke was an Irish outsider who had won his way into the club by the sharpness of his wits gave his defence of the status quo added vigour.

sense and candour of those who oppose Burke - their ranks must include all those who believe politics is about seeking to change the status quo - that they admit he is a big man. Maybe. But the same test does not apply to the Burke boosters and apologists who are going to be out in force

'Unwelcome Truths', publication 69 from the

## Britain's real reading list

ever dreamt up Water-stones' greateat 100 books of the century pulled off what is been should be something the serious about literature the neatest marketing wheeze are bound to react caustically to since *Prima* persuaded Cherie a league table that places Delia Blair to edit their mag. Neat, hecause yesterday everyone who had any interest whatever in hooks found themselves unable to avoid discussing the merits and demerits of their list. Over hreakfast we asked

each other how many we'd actually read (and then tried to work out if our partners/lovers were cheating). Over hinch our Eng Lit friends woodered how on earth Trainspotting could appear in the top 100, never mind the top 10 (and we thought, how can yoo be so pompous?). At supper the par-iour game played on. Surely at least one Hemingway? No Conrad? Or Faulkner? What about The Golden Notebook?

The Naked and the Dead? As Mark Lawson put it yesterday morning oo Radio 4, this top 100 was a satchel and rucksack collection. In one way or another most of the books chosen hy Waterstone's customers fell into the category of juvenile cult favourite (The Lord of the Rings, The Catcher in the Rye, Dune, Zen and the An of Motorcycle Maintenance, anything by Hazlitt once said that it was a test of the | Stephen King) or obligatory examination texts (1984, Ani-mal Farm, To Kill a Mockingbird, Lord of the Flies). The rest were books that everyone knows are important but most have not read (Ulysses, Remembrance of Things Past). In fact,

My first response on scan-

one day? Ten years ago this list would have been very different; in 10 years' time it will be different again, if only because The Horse Whisperer will by then be long forgotten (thank heaven). But the list was a monument to the nower of adolescent conformit is no less intriguing for that. ism and GCSE syllabuses.

Colin Hughes



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# business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

# Thorn share price rocked by profit warning

**Tom Stevenson**City Editor

Demerger fails to boost shareholder value as third-quarter figures cause dismay in the City

The slump in the stock market value of Thorn since it demerged from the EMI music business last summer threatened to turn into a rout yesterday after the Radio Rentals to Crazy George's group warned that poor trading and the strong pound would hit profits in the year to March.

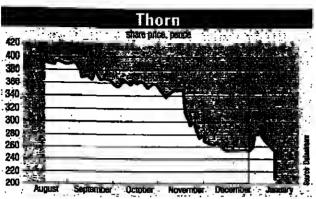
Thorn's shares, which started trading at 408p last August, slumped 42.5p to 209p in heavy trading after the company issued a nine-month trading statement in which it warned investors it would make no more than last year's pro forma £170.7m pre-tax profit.

The slump caused dismay among sbarebolders who had expected the split from EMI to enhance shareholder value in the same way that similar splits by companies such as 1CI and Zeneca and Courtaulds bad

unlocked previously hidden potential. Thorn's stock market value has slumped from £1.77bn to £905m.

The warning, which accompanied nine-month results, shocked analysts who had pencilled in profits for the year of about £180m. Nick Bubb of MeesPierson said: "The thirdquarter figures aren't too dis-astrous but what they are implying about the fourth quarter takes our forecast down another £10m or so."

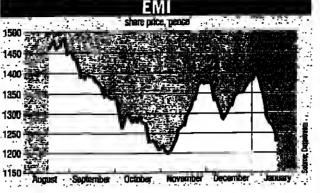
A spokesman for Thorn said the problems bad been concentrated in December. He added that because turnover in the rental business comes in the form of future monthly payments rather than one-off payments, the full impact of a poor pre-Christmas sales period would only be fully felt in subsequent months.



nine months to December showed an 8 per cent increase in profits before tax and exceptional items to £123m struck from sales 5 per cent higher. But the fourth quarter is expected to be further hit by the strength of

Third-quarter figures for the wipe out 10 per cent of US profits on translation.

Thorn is the latest UK company to complain about the im-pact on profits of the recent surge in the value of the pound. Guinness said last week that 1997 profits would suffer to the tune of £60m and ICI and



British Steel have seen analysts downgrade profit forecasts to

reflect sterling's rise.
In the US, where Thorn generates about 60 per cent of its turnover, sales were hit by a price war in the consumer electronics retail market between two of the largest players,

Circuit City and Best Buy. With prices of items such as video recorders falling to less than £100 in some cases, the market for renting to low-income households had dried up. In the UK, Radio Rentals,

which together with Granada controls about 85 per cent of the

electronics, sales had been particularly poor. Thorn admitted it had priced its personal computer rental contracts too high

competition in small screen televisions from Granada. Poor trading and foreign exchange worries are the latest cloud to darken Thorn's prospects since demerger. They add to the concerns already surrounding the company regarding a spate of court cases in which Thorn is being sued for millions of dollars over the

and failed to respond to extreme

pricing of its rental contracts. Litigation has focused on wbether Thorn's contracts should be covered by consumer credit law which in many states caps the annual percentage rate t which interest can be charged. Although Thorn claims its contracts are for rental agreements, not credit sales, hut sentiment has been hit hadly by the loss of two cases in the past four

Other concerns include the perception that the market for renting consumer electronics goods is fast disappearing as the products hecome cheaper. Thorn says it is responding by moving into new rural geo-graphic areas, where there is less competition, and new product areas, such as car rental where

areas, such as car retual where it currently has no exposure.

The latest fall in Thorn's share price completes an un-comfortable first five months on the stock market which began with a 17p first-day slide to 391p. EML by contrast, jumped to a 37.5p premium on the first day of dealings to £14.60, buoyed by bid speculation. In the absence of any activity, bowever, EMI has also underperformed in subsequent trading, closing yes-

terday 13.5p lower at £12.30. Comment, page 15

George

argues

for rate

increase

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday took issue with the Chancellor of the Exchequer's claim that

the strength of the pound was

a good reason for not raising in-

In a speech to a Institute of

Bankers dinner in Scotland, he

said "there could be real dan-

gers in allowing justified con-

cero about the exchange rate to

deflect us for too long from

moving gradually to moderate

the upswing in the economy.

Last Thursday, Kenneth

Clarke, the Chancellor, justified his decision not to raise base

rates the day after his monthly

monetary meeting with Mr

George hy saying: "The big

thing is that the pound is very

strong at the moment and it is

further yesterday against the

mark, Mr George made clear

that the Bank wanted a small

rise in interest rates. He also

emphasised the need for a grad-

ual tightening to "moderate" the

upswing rather than bring the

However, he reminded his

audience that two years ago his

message about interest rates was

that a stitch in time saved nine

and he added: "I bring you the

same message.

economy to a jarring halt.

As the pound strengthened

terest rates last week.

**Jill Treamor** 

### **Tunnel** fires off salvo over debt talks

Michael Harrison

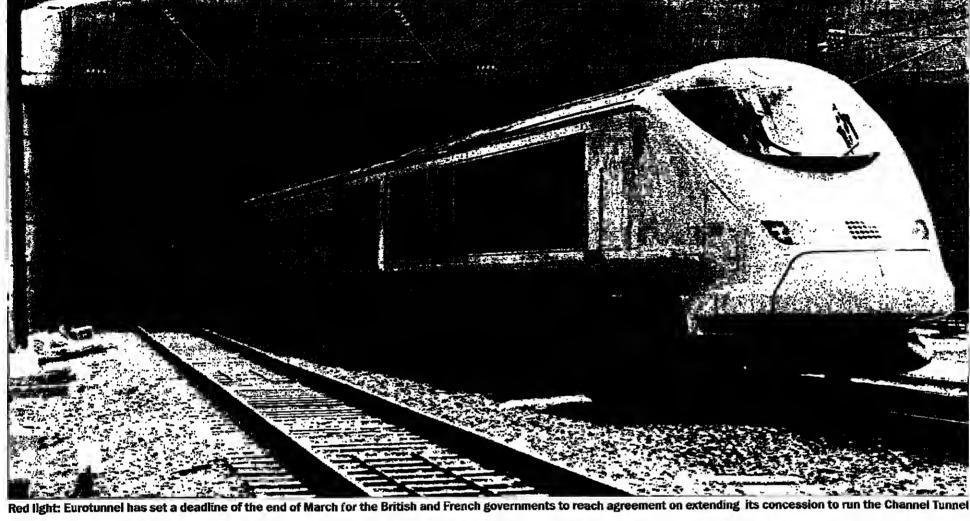
Eurotunnel warned yesterday that the restructuring of its £8.7bn debt mountain is at risk unless the Britisb and French governments agree to extend its concession to run the Channel Tunnel. The company is in negotiations to extend the concession from 65 to 99 years and has set a deadline of the end of March for agreement from the two governments.

Robert Malpas, co-chairman of Eurotunnel, said yesterday in Folkestone: "An extension is critical if we are to secure the support of our bankers and shareholders for the financial restructuring. Without it, it will be even more difficult."

He was speaking as Eurotunnel announced that it had recaptured a third of the cross-Channel market since the freight shuttle fire in November which forced it to close the tunnel. Eurotunnel expects its market share to return to 50 per cent by the end of the year with total revenues forecast to increase to about £600m compared with £450m last year.

The total cost of the fire, including lost revenue, repair work, compensation payments and the replacement of the burnt-out sbuttle, is forecast at a maximum of £265m-£270m. However, Eurotunnel said its insurance would cover it for all but £5m-£7m of this.

The only remaining clues to the terrifying conflagration that



took place are the exposed steel reinforcing bars hanging from the tunnel roof. The sheer heat of the fire stripped away three-quarters of the 40cm thick

concrete lining covering them. Yesterday, nine weeks to the day after the hlaze, work began to repair the tunnel so that it will be "as good or better than the original", according to David Pointon, Eurotunnel's technical director. A team of 140 engiclock for the next 16 weeks to repair the lining and renew the will be secured with hundreds of 2.5-metre steel bolts. The engineers will then spray the tunnel walls with concrete from specially adapted trains. When the tunnel was originally built

hurnt out electrical systems.

What remains of the lining the concrete lining was fitted in giant pre-cast slabs. As a pre-

aged part of the tunnel - a 46 metre-long section - is temporarily being supported with steel colliery arcbes. The tunnel floor is, disconwater and everywhere the tun-

nel lining is blackened by smoke. But Mr Pointon says: We have monitored for structural movement and drilled numerous boreholes and the news is good. There is very little ingress of water and no structural movement."

caution, the most severely dambelieve the fire would affect its deht restructuring. But because in does not expect to resume full services until June, it has asked its banks to extend its deht standstill, under which Eurocertingly, a few inches deep in tunnel has suspended interest payments on its loans, until

The company said it did not

the end of the year. Passenger numbers fell by almost a half in December in the wake of the fire and the subsequent reduction in services. No freight shuttles have operated since the incident. Eurotunnel is aiming to restart freight shuttle services by the end of March and complete repairs to the fire-damaged section of the tunnel by mid-May so that it can resume a full service from June.

The plan is to have achieved a full recovery from the fire by the end of 1997. Eurostar services are hack to 90 per cent of

normal levels while passenger shuttle services have recovered to 50 per cent of their levels before the fire. Despite the fire, revenues rose by more than 60 per cent to £450m as the number of passengers using the tunnel increased from 8 million in 1995 to 13 million. Eurostar handled just under 4.9 million passengers - giving it 66 per cent of the London-Paris market while Eurotuppel's Shuttle service carried more than 2 million cars and 58,000 coaches, giving it a 50 per cent share of the

So far Eurotunnel's insurers have paid £34m for lost revenue in 1996 and the company said it was confident that the impact of the fire on its finances in 1996 and the first half of this year

would be limited. Last year Le Shuttle carried more than half-a-million trucks, compared with 400,000 in 1995. while the railways handled 2.4 million tonnes of railfreight. Until the fire interrupted services, passenger numbers were 87 per cent up on 1995 while the amount of freight carried was 49 per cent higher.

known for its aggressive stance

on hiring. Last year it faced lc-

gal action for poaching a team

of traders from ING Barings.

can be an effective way to build

a business, many in the City

wonder if it pays off long-term by winning loyalty. You don't buy their loyalty. For a while you

do, until the next big offer

comes along," said Phil Rivett,

chairman of Coopers & Ly-

brand's capital markets group.

chairman of the Securities and

Investments Board, also called

for strong management to con-

Late last year Andrew Large,

While hiring teams on masse

The speed and size of sterling's appreciation was causing 'understandable anxiety", particularly for manufacturers exposed to international competition. This was already affecting ex-

port orders, "clearly a serious issue", creating tension between the strong exchange rate and domestic policy.

But Mr George repeated the Bank's long-standing argument that the stronger exchange rate did not directly affect the problem of the build-up of domestic demand pressure. It would have a one-off downward effect on retail price inflation, but this would drop out of the 12-month calculation during 1998. The stronger exchange rate

would also weaken the trade balance, relieving the pressure on demand, which may have a more lasting effect on inflation. The Bank would take these factors into account, though

there was inevitably a great deal of uncertainty over the timing and scale. The index for the pound

rose 0.2 to 96.8, while against Deadlock over job, page 4 the mark sterling rose 1.14 pfennigs to DM2.7004.

#### \$7.3bn Banc One buy creates US card giant

STOCK MARKETS

+0.2

+10.20

+9.01

2287.88

FTSE All-Share 2061.07

+17.50 +0.4

+5.70 +0.3

+5.81 +0.3

New York

Banc One Corp is huying First USA, a credit-card business based in Dallas, Texas, for \$7.3bn (£4.4bn) in a bold and potentially risky move that will create America's third-largest issuer of credit cards.

The deal will catapult Banc One, based in Columbus, Ohio, into the top league of credit issuers in the US. Combined, the two companies will bave a credit card operation with 32 million holders and assets of

The stock transaction could berald a consolidation wave in

the American credit card industry, some analysts suggested. Last year, Citicorp began negotiations to purchase American Express, it was revealed recently. That approach fizzled out, however.

After a troubled history, First USA has emerged in recent years as a powerhouse among credit card issuers, with its own stock growing an impressive 12 times in four years.

Banc One said it had agreed to offer 1.1659 shares of its common stock, or about \$52.61, for each share of First USA. That compares with First USA's closing share price on Friday of \$36.75.

Day's change Change (%) 1996/97 Figh 1996/97 Low Yield(%)

4207.70

4583.40

2087.70

6765.37

22656.80

3632.30 3.70

1816.60 3.64

17303.65 0.86†

10204.87 3.05†

#### **fill Treanor** Banking Correspondent

Top City regulators vesterday expressed concern about the 'star" culture being nurtured in the City, warning it failed to win staff loyalty and could have implications for the soundness

The comments by Nick Durlacher, chairman of the Securities and Futures Authority, and Phillip Thorne, chief executive of Imro, followed the acrimonious departure of Nicola Horlick from Murgan Grenfell Asset Management last week. Their comments were not

aimed at MGAM directly but at an industry which over recent

loney Market Rates

\_\_5.97\_

Germany 3.19 3.09 5.75

\_Q.41\_

antics of characters perceived as star performers.

Only four months ago MGAM sacked Peter Young, once one of its top-performing fund managers, after establishing be had set up Luxembourg holding companies to hide his investments in unlisted securiries. Nick Leeson, now in jail after hreaking Barings, was rceived as a star at the bank hefore it collapsed in February 1995. The same is true of Yasuo Hamanaka, a trader at

Japan's Sumitomo. Mr Durlacher said: "To some extent management have brought it upon themselves by the willingness to put so much

INTEREST RATES

Hedium Bood (%) Year Ago

13 5.5 Cookson Group 252.5

70 7.2 Thorn

months has been dogged by the of the reward for strong performance on individual performance and individual bonuses. The danger is that it's

Star culture out of control, warn regulators

replaced... loyalty."
MGAM is fighting to reassure its clients that Mrs Horlick's departure will not impact on the performance of the group, even though she was considered to be one of the key players behind its improved record in recent years.

Dubbed Superwoman for her ability to juggle her hectic family life - she has five children and an investment banker husband - and her "star" role as head of pension funds at MGAM, she was rumoured to earn more than film a year.

\$ (N York) ± 1.6610 -2.20c 1.5105

#### "We use the word 'stars' be-cause we borrowed it from Holly-known for its aggressive stance wood and one can observe from casual reading of memoirs coming out of Hollywood that they were difficult to manage for the studios," said Mr Durlacher.

Mr Thorpe said he saw nothing wrong with husinesses attempling to hire the best people. However, we are concerned when management's at-tention seems to wholly focused on performance," be said.

MGAM suspects that Mrs

Horlick was trying to poach some its top fund managers. She denies this. City sources pointed out the

irony of MGAM's situation because Deutsche Morgan Gren-



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Gold \$	353.75	-1.45	399.60				105.7	27 J
Gold £	212.75	-0.20	265.43	Base Rates	s — (	6. <b>00</b> pc	6.75	

## Olivetti agrees sale of personal computers

Magnus Grimond

Olivetti, the Italian information technology group, yesterday moved to tackle the problems that have been besetting it with L250hn-L300hn (£96m-£1 (5m) deal to sell its troubled

personal computer division. The loss-making husiness is going to Picdmont International, a company established for the purpose hy Edward Gottesman, a US lawyer based in London whose other interests include Raleigh hicycles and the Fila sports shoe group. The final sale price will be agreed before

the end of February, with Olivetti retaining a 10 per cent stake in the new company.

Plans to sell the PC operation were announced last October as part of a programme to raise around L800bn to cut debt and restructure the company. With L450hn raised from the recent sale of an 8 per cent stake in Omnitel, one of Italy's mobile telephone groups, the latest disposal means that target bas almost been reached.

Olivetti's shares, suspended in Milan yesterday ahead of the announcement, have been railying from new lows.

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209 42.5 16.9

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COMMENT

'From very different

political positions, Mr

perspectives and

Tietmeyer and Mr

Brown seem to be

coming round to the

same point of view'

bune vesterday would think he had been

converted to Kenneth Clarke's particular

hrand of British Conservatism. It was

wrong. Mr Tietmeyer said, to hlamc Maas-

tricht for the public spending cuts, labour

market reforms and welfare upheaval go-

ing on throughout Europe; these would be

necessary regardless of monetary union, for

Europe is losing its position of competi-

tive strength in world markets and needs

That's remarkable enough for any ben-

eficiary of the German economic miracle,

hut for the President of the Bundesbank

it looks like a form of heresy. What's this?

Unskilled workers should not command

high rates of pay, labour regulations are too rigid, collective wage bargaining is not sufficiently flexible, Germany in particu-

lar should get away from the idea that the

service industries are a humiliating form

of work? Hans Tietmeyer is not a politi-cian, he's said this kind of thing hefore

(though not as strongly), and it may be some time hefore sentiments of this type are echoed publicly by Helmut Kohl. All

the same, by German standards, he's tilt-

In a different way, so is the Labour Party

in its now very public public pronounce-

ments on the importance of sound public finances and low rates of taxation. That this

ing at some very sacred cows.

to respond urgently.

ments, not credit sales, but sentiment has been hit badly by the loss of two cases in the past four months.

Other concerns include the perception that the market for renting consumer electronic goods is fast disappearing as the products become cheaper Thorn says it is responding by moving into new rural geographic areas, where there is key competition, and new product areas, such as car rental where

it currently has no exposure. The latest fall in Thorn share price completes an un comfortable first five months on the stock market which began with a 17p first-day slide to July EMI, by contrast, jumped to, 37.5p premium on the fire de of dealings to £14.60, buryedh bid speculation. In the abene of any activity, however, EM 3 has also underperformed in subsequent trading closing ve-terday 13.5p lower at 11230

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SUMET

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### George argues for rate increase

Comment, page [

Jill Treanor

Edical Coorga Coverners the Bank of England, sesents to the result with the Changas of the Francouers damile the strongth of the pounds. ALL THE TRUSHED TO THE RUSINGS

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The state of the state of

Tesco said in the 21 weeks to 5 January total sales growth was 13 per cent with like-for-like sales 8 per cent ahead. In the five weeks covering the Christ-

mas and New Year period, like-for-like sales were 7.5 per cent ahead of the same period last year. The figures were ahead of the industry average of 5.9 per cent and analysts will be looking ahead to Friday when Sainshury releases its Christmas trading statement.

Tesco increased the pressure on

arch-rival Sainsbury yesterday

with hetter-than-expected

Christmas sales figures.

Bill Myers at Henderson Crosthwaite said: "At first glance the market will obviously think that if Tesco is doing well then they must be hurting somebody and that that somebody is Sainsbury. I think Sainsbury's figures will probably be okay.

But not as good as Tesco's." Tony MacNeary of NatWest Securities said: These figure put pressure on Sainsbury to come up with something good on Fri-day. They need to be better than 3 per cent. Even 4 per cent

would only be stopping the rot."
Separately, Budgens Separately, Budgens reported a 4.5 per cent increase in like-for-like sales yesterday and chief executive John

received £56m of money-off

Tesco sales pressurise Sainsbury

von Spreckelsen said the addi-tional market share was coming hut said he looked forward to reporting "a good set of results in April". Tesco's figures helped from the smaller independent retailers as well as some of the middle-ranking supermarket groups. These include Iceland, the shares 2p higher at 369p while Sainsbury drifted 5.5p Kwik Save and the Co-Op movement.

lower at 391p. Somerfield, the former Gate-Tesco's sales increase was way Foodmarkets group, will report today on its first full trading hoosted by its "Unbeatable Value" promotion launched in period since its troubled stock September. The number of cusmarket quote last summer.

tomers has increased and bold-NatWest Securities is exers of the group's Clubcard loyalty card have been spendpecting Somerfield's half-year profits of £54.5m. Though the price of Somerfield shares was ing more per store visit. Tesco said Clubcard members had twice cot to ensure the float got away they have heen strong recently and closed at a peak of Lord MacLaurin, chairman, 174p yesterday.

 The Lloyd's of London insurance market will almost certainly recommend a move towards external supervision and away from its current self-regulatory status, senior market watchdogs said. "I would be surprised if the regulatory review does not recom-mend some sort of external overview," David Gittings, director of Lloyd's regulatory division, said. A review group set up in 1996 to consider market regulation is due to report by the middle of this year. The Conservative Party said in 1995 that it would review Lloyd's regulation in 1997, while Labour is expected to carry out a review of all financial services regulation if it forms the next government, he added.

 The London Stock Exchange published rules governing the American-style automated order book for FTSE 100 stocks, due to be introduced later this year. This will enable member firms and market-users to prepare for customer testing which begins in April. Responding to the market's comments on opening hours, the pre-opening time for the inputting of orders has been reset at 8am (from 7.45am) with opening now fixed at 8.30am (from 8am). Suspensions of automated execution in a specific share will also be introduced in response to a 10 per cent price movement (previously 5 per cent) and for no more than 10 minutes (from

Reed-Elsevier is in advanced talks to buy Colofon, a Dutch publishing group, for about £70m. The deal is expected to enhance earnings in the first year and should be completed in a few weeks, the Anglo-Dutch publisher said in a statement.

 Abbey National is buying a 5 per cent stake in Dah Sing Financial Holdings, one of Hong Kong's leading commercial and retail banks, for HK\$381m (£30m). Last year Abbey, Dah Sing and Hambros, the merchant bank, set up a private banking joint-venture. Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, said: "This investment continues Abbey National's cautious approach to developing business in Hong Kong and South-east Asia. Dah Sing and Abbey National are looking at possible areas for future co-operation in

the civil service, the professions and the education system is to blame for British manufacturers' inability to close the gap with competitors, according to a report to be published next month. The study, Reassessing the Context of Manufacturing Success, by the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) is based on interviews with senior industrialists, policy-makers and academics and covers some of the same areas as today's long-awaited report, Promoting Prosperity, by the Commission on Public Policy.

The final triumph of free market principles A nyone reading Hans Tietmeyer's com| kind of thing should no longer be thought ments in the International Herald Tri-This is not money that it is going to be hulk chemicals, it doesn't take a genius to day's trading statement confirmed the nagicked out of thin air. Ultimately it will recognise the potential of spinning it off market in the US for renting commodity magicked out of thin air. Ultimately it will surprising coming from the shadow chancellor is almost as revealing as Mr Tietbe the shareholders who pay. There are into a racier sector. meyer's conversion to the cause of flexible about 8 million of them spread across the

> kets will be quite as hard as Mr Tietmeyer all very well to say these things, quite

labour markets. Are we beginning to wit-

ness the final triumph of Anglo-Saxon free

market principles? From very different per-spectives and political positions. Mr Tiet-

meyer and Mr Brown seem to be coming

The problem for Mr Brown is that it is

another for him to deliver. It remains to

he seen what sort of a credibility gap he has to close with the electorate; with the

he's as serious about it as claimed. Income

tax is in any case only part of the equation

here. If he has to rely on the windfall prof-

its tax and other wheezes to make the

There is no such thing as a popular tax,

however much a windfall levy on the util-

ities might look like one. While proposals

for this tax languished in the £3bn-£5bn range, Lahour looked like getting away with it, just about. But if it is true that Mr

Brown's office is now looking at a £10hn

levy - and his comments on income tax

yesterday only tend to support the sug-gestion that he is - then that is a very dif-

ferent matter.

books halance, he could be in trouble.

round to the same point of view.

#### Demergers are no panacea

utilities, and the sums involved begin to

look large enough to make an electoral dif-ference. As Mr Brown is about to discover, squaring the circle between Lahour's

social commitments, its policy of low tax-ation, Maastricht and the financial mar-

صكذا من الاعل

markets it is still a hig one.

The rhetoric is fine, but he's got a hill to climb convincing financial markets that The City was beginning to have its doubts about demergers, but the woeful performance of Thorn since its divorce from EMI has confirmed that the great husiness school idea of the early 1990s is no panacca. Since Thorn EMI did the splits in August last year, the rental arm's shares have slumped 47 per cent.

That would not matter so much if the music husiness had played a more cheerful tune, but it too has fallen, by 16 per cent as hid speculation evaporated.

The theory of demergers is fine as far as it goes. When a valuable gem such as ICI's pharmaceuticals arm is hidden from view behind a lower rated husiness like

The same was true of Racal's progeny, especially Vodafone, where the potential of the mobile phone revolution was always likely to be diluted by the stock market rating on dull defence electronics contracts.

But the list of failed demergers is length-

ening. Hanson's ran aground last year when the City realised the conglomerate's four way split was little more than a dividend cut in fancy clothing. Guinness has turned its back on a hreak-up. Most tellingly, Sir Christopher Hogg, architect of the Courtaulds demerger, has said he is unconvinced it is the solution to Allied Domeco's deep-seated problems, BAT Industries, likewise, cannot see how demerging tobacco from insurance would add to shareholder value, even though it

admits there is no logic in co-existence. With the benefit of hindsight it is now clear that it was always going to be better to travel than to arrive with Thorn EMI. In the months leading up to last summer's split, optimistic estimates of the value of the music arm to one of the US entertainment giants drove the share price to dizzy heights while no-one really gave a second thought to the dull old rental

Which was a mistake, because dull it

products like video recorders and television is drying up as fast as a price war is driving down the cost of huying the

machines outright.
What's left of the market is being undermined in the courts where American lawyers have cottoned onto the usurious effective interest rates rent-to-huy contracts imply. The move into car rental, an area already well served by specialists, is a further sign of desperation. Being EMI's unnoticed sibling had its attractions, it seems.

#### Whistle blown on gravy train

The gravy train may not yet have hit the huffers hur at least the whistle has been hlown. Pressure from institutional investors has finally forced Prism Rail to scrap a share ratchet scheme that enriched its founding investors beyond their wildest dreams. But no matter.

Prism's directors own 30 per cent and are likely to be in the money again when a larger player chooses to swallow them in the inevitable consolidation to come. History will judge them as clever arbitrageurs who Which was a mistake, because dull it made their money paying peanuts for was, is and is likely to remain. As yester-

£100m PO cuts

aimed at bosses

## Prism drops share scheme after big investors' protest

**Patrick Tooher** 

Prism, the owner of four pas-senger rail franchises, yesterday bowed to pressure from institutional investors and scrapped a controversial honus share scheme that had made paper profits of more than £30m for its founding shareholders. "It looked a mite greedy to us," said

one leading fund manager. The scheme, set up to cover the costs of the founding directors, who have put up £2.6m of their money for tendering for rail franchises, will not kick in if Prism wins any more train operating bids. Prism is on the shortlist for North West Regional Railways and Scotrail.

**Nigel Cope** 

However, the seven directors, bidding success and the fact that including the chairman, Godfrey Burley, and Len Wright, and one husiness partner will keep the shares they have already been awarded for previous rail franchise gains. Their stake in Prism was worth £35m at last night's closing price of 550p, down 30p on the day. The shares have soared since they

were placed at 100p on the Al-

ternative Investment Market a

Prism said that following consultations with certain major shareholders" it was terminating the share ratchet scheme that had operated on passenger rail franchises awarded so far. "This reflects the company's the continuing need for a ratchct mechanism no longer exists," Prism said. Instead, Prism will fund the

costs and expenses of tenders for the remaining rail franchise tenders by converting the ap-propriate amount of existing deferred shares held by the directors into ordinary equity. This will be based on the midmarket price of Prism's shares at the time that the preferred hidders are announced. Directors will be allowed to subscribe to any rights issue needed to fund a new franchise win.

It was the award of West Anglia Great Northern, Prism's latest rail franchise, that provoked runs from London to Stansted



Sharing it out: The seven directors, Including Godfrey Burley (left) and Len Wright, will keep the shares they have already been awarded for previous rail franchise galns

a storm of protest about the directors' share bonanza.

They were granted free shares worth £5.4m as part of a £12m rights issue to help fund the contract to run the heavily subsidised line, which

Airport, Cambridge and Pe- had revolted against the ratchterborough.
Some commentators esti-

mated that the cost of capital to Prism's shareholders of that deal was as high as 50 per cent. A company spokesman denied institutional shareholders were unhappy with the scheme.

et scheme: "The directors want the company to appear mature and reflect the public mood."

However, a leading fund manager insisted that leading investors had let it be known they

#### could prove controversial as it will hit managers at the same Middle and senior managers in time as plans to introduce flex-

**Chris Godsmark** 

the Post Office are to be hit by a £100m cost-cutting pro-gramme. John Roberts, chief executive, also announced yesterday a further 15-month freeze in the price of postage stamps lasting until April 1998.

The cost cuts are in response to competitive pressures from other forms of information delivery such as fax machines and electronic mail. Money would he saved by rationalising administrative tasks such as the computer payroll and managerial jobs would "inevitably go" through natural wastage and voluntary redundancy.

The Post Office employs 13,000 managers in regional and national headquarters offices out of a total workforce of 180,000. The plans will he finalised by May.

However, the programme coming financial year.

ible working affecting the main Royal Mail workforce.

Joint working parties appointed to head off further industrial action over the plans have started meeting, with £30m set aside by the Post Office as an incentive to staff to accept the changes. These could include team working and changes to the way mail is delivered. Meanwhile, the freeze on

postal charges means that prices will remain unchanged for 22 months since the last increase in July 1996, when the price of first-class stamps was raised to 26p. Lifting prices by another 1p this year would have raised £150m. The freeze was made possible because the Government has only marginally increased the cash it intends to take from the Post Office in the

## Pru settles out of court with **GMB** members

Nic Cicutti

Prudential, the UK's largest insurer, yesterday inched closer to offering redress to victims as it announced an out-of-court higgest unions.

Prudential said it had agreed to pay compensation to 13 members of GMB, the general and boilermakers union, on whose behalf writs had been issued against the insurer.

The company also agreed a tti agrees salei process to resolve dozens more cases outstanding against it from GMB members and to pay sonal computer the union a "significant" contribution towards its legal costs.

lighted that the logiam has in sales of the company's life, heen broken and we have achieved a full settlement for many of our members."

ucts around the world to £6.66bn in 1996. Regular pre-

reached settlements with several other insurers, although it still £3.56bn, while regular premiums had 700 legal cases outstanding, including many against Legal & General and TSB.

The average compensation deal reached so far was about £25,000, while the cost of legal action was expected to reach about £10,000 per case, the

Last year, GMB was among several unions to launch mass High Court action on behalf of of the pension transfer scandal thousands of members who were encouraged to opt out of settlement with one of Britain's their company schemes and were mis-sold personal pen-

> A Prudential spokesman said: "We are extremely pleased to reach a settlement. We believe it has been a waste of time and resources both of GMB and of Prudential to proceed through the courts when there were preferable ways of dealing with it through the machinery already set up by the regulators."

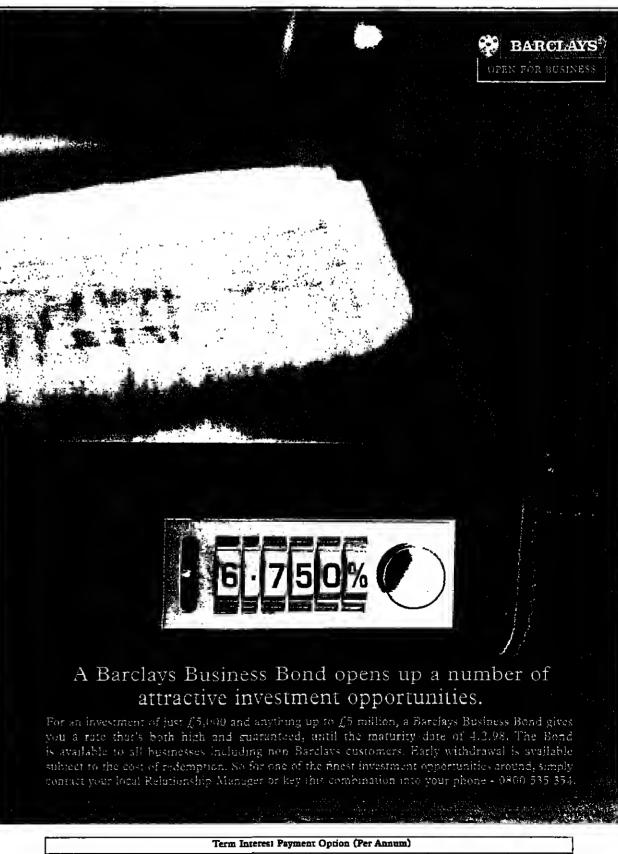
Prudential's comments came as the company yesterday an-John Edmunds, general sec-retary of GMB, said: "I am de-nounced a 69 per cent increase pension and investment prod-GMB said yesterday that in miums rose 13 per cent to addition to Prudential, it had £516m. In the UK, single premiums rose 71 per cent to

were up 8 per cent to £303m. Peter Nowell, group chief actuary at Prudential, said: "What we are seeing is that people are reluctant to commit themselves to saving for a long

#### IN BRIEF

both the wholesale and retail business."

The environment created by such institutions as government,



6.750% gross | 5.40% nei | £100,000-£249,999 6.250% gross 5.00% ner £500,000-£999,999 6.625% gross 5.30% nei £25,000-£99,999 £250,000-£499,999 6.375% gross 5.10% net £5,000-£24,999 6.000% gross 4.80% nei

GROSS RATE is the contractual rate of income tax at the lower rate. NET RATE is the rate which would be pay after allowing for the deduction of income tax at the lower rate. The Tax Deduction Scheme for Interest (TDSI) may vary and, therefore, the net rate is given as an illustra

# Majestic buoyant on bubbly sales

Nigel Cope

Buoyant sales of champagne and Chilean wine helped Majestic Wine Warehouse to a spirited Christmas performance in its maiden results since last November's AIM flotation.

While most of the champagne-buying was seasonal, the company said it had sold large quantities of vintage bottles to forward-thinking party-givers who are already planning ahead 10 New Year's Eve celebrations at the millennium.

Majestic has been urging customers to buy their hubbly in advance of 1999 when it will make "very good drinking". Majestic has pre-sold some champagne which it is storing for delivery for the Millennium

The comments came as Majestic announced a slip into the red in the first half to Sep-tember. Profits of £114,000 turned into a loss of £82,000 as the company continued to invest were up by 12.7 per cent. in store expansion.

A further two stores were opened in November taking the total to 61. Another site will open in Manchester next month. Majestic plans to have 70 stores by March 1998.

We have got several now at an advanced stage both legally and in terms of planning appli-cations," said Tim How, the chief executive. The expansion will be fund-

ed from existing resources which were boosted by the £2m raised via the group's AIM flotation last year.

Majestic recorded impres-

sive gains with sales in the three months to 30 December 22.4 per cent ahead of the same period last year. Stripping out the contribution from new stores, like-for-like sales growth was also impressive at 10.8 per cent. For the five weeks over

Majestic has proved a sterling performer since its shares were priced at 160p in November. Yesterday they edged up a further 2.5p to 290p.

Most of the wine market is accounted for either by supermarkets or by high-street offlicence chains such as Threshers and Victoria Wine. However, Whitbread is testing a warehouse-style off licence formula which sells beer and spirits as well as wine.

Majestic was acquired by the current chairman John Apthorp who controlled a rival chain, Wizard Wine. Mr Apthorp had made his fortune through the sale of the Bejam frozen food stores to Iceland. He still controls 55 per cent of the shares.

The directors have pledged not to sell the bulk of their shareholdings until 1998.

#### Ashtead has always stood out in the de-pressed construction sector. When re-cession hit in 1990, the plant hire specialist quickly reinvented itself, gradually reducing the amount of di-rect construction work in the UK from

almost 100 per cent to about 25 per cent through a series of acquisitions, mainis less developed.

It proved to be an inspired move.
Unique among rivals such as Vibroplant and Hewden Stuart, Ashtead's profits and earnings have continued to bound ahead, despite hire rates for traditional equipment in the UK such as dumper trucks and compressors being at least 30 per cent below their peak at the start of the decade. In the second quarter rental rates for some products touched

ket share in tough market conditions. Interim net profits have risen 10-fold in the past five years and the 18 per cent improvement in earnings per share to 7.63p was struck after integrating

Ashtead's biggest acquisitions -McLean Rentals in the US and Leada Acrow in the UK - for a rights issuefunded £52m. The figures are all the more impressive because they include just £800,000 from the sale of retired equipment against £5m for the whole of last year, while £5.4m was charged against the profit and loss account for spares and parts against £2.4m in the

corresponding period.
The US, currently almost a third of sales, is earmarked for further growth. Peter Lewis and George Burnett, Ashtead's founders, reckon rental rates are twice as high across the pond and the fragmented market there is ripe for consolidation. Ashtead op-erates out of 26 locations in eight US states but the target is to double this by the spring of 1999. Mr Lewis and Mr Burnett were so

encouraged by the reception they got on a US roadshow in October that they are looking into floating Ashtead on the New York stock market this year. They note that the sector is devel-

oping a following among American investors and two US plant hire groups recently went public on stratospheric price/earnings multiples. Certainly, Ashtead is right to go down this route. Its US husiness alone could be worth more than Ashtead as a group.
History suggests caution. The prob-lem is the US has proved a graveyard

for UK players in the past. A year ago, for example, Vibroplant pulled out of the American plant hire business.

## Ashtead still towers above the rest THE INVESTMENT COLUMN With less than 2 per cent of also has extremely large markets, Mioe also has extremely large markets.

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Ashtead Group : At a glance

2.33

Share price pence

7.0

Turnover

forecast of £29m at the pre-tax level ly in the US, where the rental market is less developed. the shares, down 3p at 230.5p, look about right on a PE ratio of 15 falling

> Mighty Mitie is cleaning up

When the seasoned investor unearths ecord low levels and no pick-up cast in the foreseeable future.

Even Ashtead has felt the pinch, with operating margins in UK plant hire slipping by over three percentage points to 17.3 per cent in the six months to October. But a marketing-led apart decentralised manage decentralised manage man immovative of those claiming to building services tractor, is just one of the latest models in the long and chequered history of those claiming to head discovered the holy grail of management motivation. Predecessors have included the ill-fated Cannon Street Investments and Southa company whose acronym stands for were solved by a takeover.

Mitie's own brand involves finding

thrusting management teams and wrapping them in a cocoon of administrative, financial and marketing support. This all-embracing parcel is then tied

Trading record

Pre-tax profits (£m)

Dividends per share (pence)

Business by region sm

Ashtead, with its proven track up with a minority stake in the result-record, may fare better. But on BZW's ing Mitie subsidiary, which can be bought out or swapped for a taxefficient stake in the top company's quoted shares after five years. Thus far, the formula has been a runaway success: only one of Mitie's managers has elected to sell out of a group which now comprises 47 subsidiaries. More importantly, compound earnings growth has run at 22 per cent since 1990, a record which looks set to be at least

equalled in the current year. Yesterday the group reported a 28 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.25m for the six months to September. After a strong performance on Friday the shares slipped 4.5p to 194p but they are still several times the 34p they

were at five years ago.

Mitie looks more solidly based than many of its predecessors at this game.

Management, led by the chairman,
David Telling, have plenty of experience in the business. They also appear to be vacuuming up husiness being cast off by the big facilities management groups. Contracts ranging from a £1m job cleaning Barclays branches in the Midlands to refurbishing London's Claridges hotel, expected eventually to be worth over £10m, look juicy.

\_ half year -

With less than 2 per cent of some extremely large markets, Mioe also has plenty of opportunity to grow. Margins, around 3.5 per cent, are well on the way to 5 per cent and profits of £8.1m are in prospect for the current year, putting the shares on a forward multiple of 25, falling to 20. Not cheap and the market in the shares is thin, with the market in the shares is thin, with 60 per cent in management hands, but Mitie could be the next Rentokil.

#### **Outlook rosier** at Budgens

At first glance Budgens is not in an enviable position. Sandwiched between the superstores and the discounters it has lost its primary shoppers to one group and the bargain-hunters to the other. With a market share of just 0.4 per cent it is clearly a minnow among whales and its brand is hardly the stronger!

the strongest.

It is not the rosiest of scenarios but in spite of all this Budgens' future is not as black as it seems. Since mannot as black as it seems. Since man-agement under John von Spreckelsen abandoned the failed Penny Market discount format to concentrate more on fresh foods. Budgens' fortunes have been improving. Even the stormy relationship with German shareholder Rewe, which holds a 29.9 per cent stake, seems to have calmed down.

Yesterday's results continued the consolidation. Half-year pre-tax profits up 17.7 per cent to £5m were in line with expectations and the like-for-like sales increase of 4.5 per cent was creditable. Margins have edged ahead duc to buying efficiencies gained through membership of a £3bn huying con-sortium which also includes Londis and

Budgens now concentrates on offering a convenient high street location for consumers to buy their top-up shops. One of the most interesting parts of its strategy is to develop small stores on petrol forecourts through joint ventures with Q8 and Mobil. Budgens is not alone in this area and some smaller formats of the superstore groups could form formidable com-petition. But Budgens could steal a march on some competitors as its joint venture deals give it a ready access to good sites. Finally, if Budgens cannot trade its

way to a degree of success, shareholders could benefit from possible speculative interest. At 45.75p, down a penny yesterday, the shares are not at much of a premium to net asset value of 42p. As out-of-town planning restrictions bite. Budgens' high street locations could eventually prove attractive to a larger competitor. With Henderson Crosthwaite forecasting full-year profits of £8.8m, the shares trade on a forward rating of 13. About right.

#### Saltire hit by strong sterling

Saltire, the struggling electronics distributor formerly known as Cannon Street Investments, saw its shares slide 14p to 77.5p after warning that the strong pound would hit profits, writes Magnus Grimond

The news prompted UBS, the group's broker, to slash its estimate for last year from £3.2m to just £600.000 and from £4.2m to £3.5m for the current year. Saltire said weak continental

demand for the Altai range of electronic products was being exacerbated by sterling's gains. A second problem has been

Saltire's Network operation in Romania. which is involved in managing and supplying technology and components for a state-owned television manufacturing line. A lack of hard currency has prompted the group to limit the supply of components and profits have been

alogue and high street retailing operation in the UK had been held back.

### Ushers heads to the stock market again

**Tom Stevenson** City Editor

Ushers of Trowbridge is having a second stab at floating on the stock market, two years after its first attempt was pulled. News of the planned issue, which is expected to give the regional brew-er a market value of up to £130m when shares start trading in February or March, accompanied results for the year to October showing a 9 per cent rise in operating profits to £16.9m.

Ushers first tried to come to market three years after a management huy-in from Grand Metropolitan was followed by the acquisition of a 430-strong

pub estate from Courage, Market conditions were against the first attempt, compounded by worries that a brewing contract with Courage would expire without the business being replaced Roger North, chief executive, said yesterday Ushers had cre-

ated a strong contract brewing business to replace the Courage contract which ran out in November. Ushers has rebranded and refurbished its estate, which numbers 542 mainly tenanted pubs. The brewer's own ales have been introduced throughout the pub chain and Ushers' beers account for 65 per cent of sales from a standing start.

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Ashtead Greup (I)	74,4m (43,1m)	14.4m (8.7m)	7.63p (6.47p)	0 72p (0.62p
Bedgens (I)	183m (171,8m)	5.04m (4.29m)	2.3p (2.08p)	0.4p (0.35p)
Farepak (I)	30 7m (16.8m)	1m (-364,000)	2.77p (nlf)	2.75p (2.45p)
Heritage Bathrooms (I)	9.48m (7.35m)	1,98m (1,21m)	7.4p (5.3p)	2.2p (1.62p)
Majestic Wises (I)	21.94m (17 18m)	-82,000 (114,000)	-4.26p (2.07p)	reil (-)
Mattie Group (1)	91.34m (72.06m)	3.25m (2.5m)	3.2p (2.6p)	0.9p (0.72p)
Stb Country Homes (F)	-(-)	79.891 (-19.732)	0.84p (-0.35p)	pi (pil)





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#### Outlook rosier at Budgens

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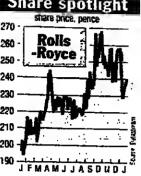
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**SEAQ VOLUME** 756m shares. 53,806 bargains Gifts Index

-0.2095.03 Share spotlight



Mgh Lim Stock
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Hopes of a deal generate new interest in Rolls-Royce aero engines and limousines,

market limelight. In a dull, hesitant session Rolls, the maker of aero engines, pulled out of a long dive on hopes of a deal over its Parsons turbine generator opera-tion, and Vickers, owners of the famous Rolls-Royce and Bentlev cars, purred forward on talk it may sell its vehicle side.

The rest of the market seemed spooked by Alan Greenspan, the US banking chief. The man who sent shivers through the world's share markets last month is due to make an important speech to the Senate budget committee

The fear is that he will repeat his message that share markets are overheating. Af-ter all his earlier blast had only short-term impact. After knee-jerk jitters shares recaptured their old buoyancy and

Rolls-Royce, in the shape of the Dow Jones Average has risen more than 400 points captured much of the stock since Mr Greenspan's cool-it-

down advice. After a bright start Footsie and the supporting FTSE 250 fell from their peaks: Footsie lost 13.7 points to 4,194 and the 250 3.2 to 4,580.2. Rolls, stripped of the Rolls-

Royce marques when its aero engine side sent it crashing to disaster in the 1960s, climbed 6.5p to 239.5p. It was re-floated 10 years ago and is one of the more poorly performing privatisation

In November the price hit a 267.5p peak, largely on a flow of overseas orders. It has since fallen as worries have grown about the impact the strong pound could be having on earnings. Like British Aerospace it is

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

Currently foreign investors are restricted to 29.5 per cent of the capital. The overseas interest in both companies is now around 26 per cent.

Vickers, with a wide range of engineering activities, moved ahead 11p to 270.5p. The Challenger tank group is, some are convinced, contemplating selling its Rolls division euher through a trade sale or flotation. It could feel the time is ripe for a Roller deal; sales of Rolls and Bentleys are the highest for six years.

BT was another in form Thoughts that the giant deal pressing the Government to re-MCI, the US group, move a ceiling on overseas could, if it goes through sharply increase institutional

stock market reporter of the year

interest lifted the shares 5.5p to 423.5p, highest since 1994. Four profit warnings took their inevitable toll. Thorn, the rental group demerged from the EMI showbiz operation in the summer, crashed 42.5p to 209p; Kingshury, the furniture retailer, lost 94.5p to 205p after it said profits would not meet market expectations; and a gloomy message from Saltire, once Cannon Street Invesiments, lowered the price

14p to 77.5p.
But the market's rage was reserved for Victrex. The plastic group fell 92.5p to 173.5p following a warning that halfyear profits will be down. A week ago the company offered a robust trading state- tive to a bid approach. It has ment, containing not a hint of - talked about the possibility of lower profits.

Burmah Castrol, the oil group, was hit by Cazenove caution, off 25p at 1.041.5p. Merrill Lynch put a 900p target on insurer General Acci-

dent, up 6p at 828.5p. There was a smallering of gains among computer shares with CMG leading the pack, up 70p to 1,045p.
The hard-pressed spirits sec-

tor displayed modest strength. Allied Domecq edged ahead 3.5p to 416p; Grand Metro-politan 6p to 438.5p and Guin-oess 6.5p to 438.5p. British Building & Engi-neering moved ahead 5.5p to

55p, a 12-month high, as Britannia, off 3p at 32.5p, said its stake is 6.89 per cent.
It was the first time that Britannia, a builder, had disclosed

an interest in the hard-pressed building materials group. BB&E could well he recep-

a strategic merger. In recent years it has undergone substantial restructuring and said in October, when announcing a £2.25m loss, it had moved

market report/shares

into profits. In a generally firm huilding sector AMEC was actively traded, gaining 7p to 98.5p. Tilbury Douglas was also in demand. A 520,000-trade at 560p in-spired a 45p gain. Hay & Robertson, the sports

goods group, rose up to 138,5p on its merchandising link with Terry Venables Trittenham Hotspur slipped 17.5p to 672p.5p following the latest defeat and "take profits"

advice. Rooson, developing as a luxury goods group, was his by a run of sell orders with one for

nearly 80,000 shares going through at 22,25p. The quote was lowered 3n

A rash of buy circulars on Robert H Lowe are expected. The market appears to have got wind of at least three recommendations suggesting profits will hit £2.9m this year (up from £2.4m) with £3.4m likely oext year. The company produces replica

football kits for a host of top teams and its shares, up 1.25p to 28.5p, are lowly rated compared with others, from football clubs to retailers, enjoying the sports boom. The group also has packaging and printing inter-

T Eidos, the entertainment suftware group, has linked with MGM. It has obtained the European distribution for a series of computer games. including The Ultimate James Bond. Last month the group raised £22m in the US hy selling 3 million shares in ADR form. The shares are 870p, up 15p.

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# Economic management is not a party political issue. True or false?

broadly the same personal taxation and public spending policies as the present Government. What does this mean for the business and financial community?

There has been an undercurrent of opinion in recent months that, once the election is out of the way, both taxes and interest rates will have to rise. tor - which any new This, it has been argued, would pre-set policies are not sustainable. If you believe this, then neither political party bas credible policies: the Tories did not have them, and now Lahour has fallen into the same trap. But if you helieve what Gordon Brown says and the hroad shape of British fiscal and monetary policy will he much the same under either party, at least the first question has become very clear, is that undercurrent that Britons face higher taxes and interest rates

On interest rates the answer is easy: yes. The UK interest rate cycle is heading upwards and will do so for the next couple of years. Remember that only very short-term interest rates are set by the authorities. and that a rapidly growing economy will put pressure on the available resources, real and financial. So we will have higher interest rates this year and the only issue is how high they will go.

Now taxes. Taxes in aggregate only have to rise if either public spending is not held to present targets, or the present tax levels narrow down the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement

insufficiently slowly. On the spending side the current fashion is to say that the

o now we know. Labour unrealistic way, and have cut is committed to following some long-term spending programmes, particularly on infrastructure, to an unsustainable level. The other reason is that there are structural demands on public spending more obviously from the ageing population, but also from higher expectations from an electorate accustomed to quality services from the private sec-

government will have to meet. occur whichever side won the election, the import being that the both fronts. The short-term criticism is at least partly true, and a continued squeeze both on public sector pay and on ini-structural projects would pro. ahly be more difficult to sustam under Labour than under the Conservatives. As for the demand for quality services, Lahour would face just as much demand as the present government. Indeed during its years of opposition it has contributed to the idea that the prime problem of the quality of public sector services has heen

Tory cuts". But none of this need mean that Labour would be unable to deliver the same spending total as the Conservatives. In the short term it could do it if it wanted to simply by saying no: in the long term it could do so by putting even more pressure on the public sector to improve its efficiency. Question: is



Hamish McRae

One thing may come right. The UK may be able to sustain a lower unemployment rate than it has in the past

Labour likely to be a more competent manager of public sector services than the Conservatives? On past performance the answer would have to be no, but the 1970s were a

Finally, is the Government narrowing the PSBR sufficiently quickly? Here is surely the best news for the winner of the next election. The PSBR is

Output gaps and fiscal deficits

Output gap Fiscal delicit

look at the graph. The blue bars able to average 2.5 per cent. We show the government deficits (in our case the PSBR) for the 1996, 1997 and 1998 for the deht hurden, while for France UK, Germany and France. the problem is getting to full The forecast comes from a respected market source. To be clear: the UK fiscal pospected market source, Deutsche Bank Research you have to take a market forecast, for you cannot trust governments when it comes to projecting fiscal out-turns. The actual percentages may he wrong hut the direction is very clear the PSBR is whizzing down. And it is projected to go on coming down when that of

stuck at around the 3 per cent

of GDP level.

Is that because the UK economy is closer to capacity than France or Germany? Well, in the case of France, yes, but not really in the case of Germany. The red bars show output gaps as calculated by the OECD. These too are coming down but there is still a little slack from the UK in 1998. It would he difficult to run an economy with zero slack, and all these OECD output gap calculations may be wrong, but we are clearly within a percentage point or so of having a balanced budget if the economy were running close to full output. And a deficit of 1.5 per cent of GDP would he low enough to start cutting back the

national debt as a proportion

France

declining quite fast. Have a of GDP, for growth ought to be

sition is not wonderful. A new government would have to accept that, unlike France and Germany, there will be relatively little scope for further privatisation to bolster revenues. But the position is not dreadful, either. There is no absolute necessity for increasing taxation in order to speed up the corboth France and Germany are rection of the PSBR unless there is some unforeseen and expensive disaster.

In any case one very important thing may come right. The UK may be able to sustain a lower rate of unemployment than it has in the past. No-one knows the minimum level of unemployment that the economy can manage to run without leading to higher inflation. But if it were, say, the same as the US, now at 5.3 per cent, instead of the OECD guestimate of 6.5 per cent, then the capacity of the economy would be higher and demand on pub-lic spending would be lower. Get unemployment down and all sorts of other things come right. Mr Brown is committed to such a policy, though whether he fully understands the need for flexible labour markets (and the element of in-

If this line of argument is right, then there are important implications for British business and for investors in the country too. Suddenly, with Mr Brown's statement on tax and spending policies, UK economic management is no longer a party political issue. There is, within broad limits, a new stability of policy. A new government would carry on the broad path already set. That path is more or less credible. So the question is simply: "Do we believe what politicians

security associated with them)

# BA plays safe on the truth about air crashes

The Economist recently flagged an investigation into "How safe is your airline?" on its cover, a blood-curdling series that suggested air crashes would probably rise with world air traffic.

British Airways, which has an arrangement to distribute 5,000 copies of The Economist free to passengers, decided to take no copies. Several US airlines did the same.

Bill Emmott, editor of The Economist, is not impressed: Some third-world countries ban us when we write about their nasty countries - we're regularly banned by Indonesia. I'm surprised to find BA m that company. This is unprecedented, and rather weak-willed of them. Boeing gave us a call, congratulating us on our halance and good

research."

A BA spokesperson hit hack: "We didn't want to cause unnecessary anxiety to our passengers. It [the issue] looks in depth at air crashes over the past few years. In the same way, we don't show aircraft disaster movies to pas-

On a happier note for BA, Concorde celebrates the 21st anniversary of its first commercial flight today. In that time more than 2 million passengers have flown on BA's supersonic flagship in the ut-

most safety. BA says: "More than 80 per cent of Concorde passengers are husiness people and an increasing number go to the US and back in a day. For them, the cost of a day-return ticket to New York represents real value for money, saving the two days of travelling and the added expense of hotel accommodation.

Wonderful, That certainly puts my fears about rising bus fares in perspective.

Is Lord Palumbo planning a new City cluh? He is already a director of Capital Club, a private establishment near the Bank of England opened three years ago by owner

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Fear of flying: Expect more crashes as traffic increases

owns Brocket Hall. Capital Club offers elegant dining and hotel facilities right at the heart of the City.

I ask this question because City Acre Property Investment Trust, a company owned by Lord Palumbo, has applied to the City Corporation for permission to change the use of 37a Walhrook, a building he already owns and a stone's throw from Capital Club. from office huilding to private cluh".

Needless to say the launch of a new cluh just behind Mansion House and so close to Capital Cluh might be seen as compention. As a spokesman for Capital Cluh puts it: "I don't think the City needs another club. I don't

think it wants one." Mike Longshaw, managing director of Capital Club. adds: "It's certainly news to me. I haven't heard anything about this. Perhaps it'll he a second Ministry of Sound."

For those readers living outside London and over the age of 30, I should explain that the Ministry of Sound is a "hip" nightcluh owned by Lord Palumbo's son. Jamie Palumbo, in Elephant & Cas-

Sadly, a call to 37a Walhrook, where Lord Palumbo has set up office while his nearby property development completed, failed to elicit a response. Never mind. I look forward to my invitation to the first "rave" night in his exciting new cluh soon.

pugh t

Just as you're beginning to recover from the ill-effects of festive over-indulgence, along comes Burns Night to ruin all your New Year resolutions. Neill Clark, a firm of Glaswegian lawyers which has done due diligence work for 34 AIM flotations, is having a London Burns "luncbeon" for journalists today, in advance of the Scouish bard's hirthday on Saturday.

The beano at the City's Waterman's Hall will include a cornucopia of Scottish favre such as Cock-a-Leekie, Haggis, Hoggart (lamh) and Cranachan (treacle shortbread). as well as a "hlind" mature

whisky-tasting. Ross Macdonald, Neili Clark's managing director. has promised to "address the haggis" which will be piped into the court room. A spokesman says: "The date has been carefully selected in advance of the official Burns Night to allow the directors and management team to recover in time for the Scottish lawyers' hash later in the week." You mean there's more? Pass the Alka Seltzer.

John Willoads

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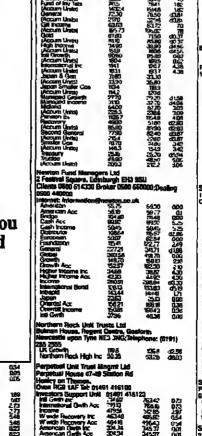
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A SECTION OF THE SECT

2.15: 1. RAFFLES ROOSTER (to Humon)
11-3: 2. Maftern 9-4 fav. 3. Kilmamertyra
Girt 9-1.13 ma. 1.15. 5. (Antwormbe). Totac
52-77: £1.10. £1.50. £3.20. DF: £5.10. CSF
£9.19. Trosst: £50.41. Trio: £13.90.
2.45: 1. BENGCTINE LINE (A Origne) 5-1;
2. Aspecto Lad 2-1 tov. 3. Neon Delon 33-1;
4. Senates Swings 11-1. 19 ma. 27a. 4. (Mr.
M. Reutley). Totac 15.20: £1.50. £1.10.
£12.50. £1.70. DF: £9.00. CSF: £1.43.4. Tri
cast: £283.63. Tota: Not won.
3.15: 1. MONO LADY (C. Rutler) 8-1; 2.
Trive Arch Bridge 9-2; 3. Giddy 14-1. 14
man. 4-1 fav Cats Bottom. 19, 2/s. (D. Haydri
Jones). Totac £9.60: £3.50, £3.00, £4.70.
DF: £21.20. CSF: £44.14. Tricss: £495.62.
Trio: £218.40. NR: Queens Stroller.
3.45: 1. SENSE OF PRIORITY (Alex
Grewes) 6-4 for. 2. Ketar 2-1; 3. Finha 14-1.
8 man. 3, 2. (D. Herbots). Totac £2.80; £1.10.
£1.10. £6.10. DF: £2.210. CSF: £4.41.
Trio: £31.90: NR: Natal Rodge.
4.15: 1. WALK THE BEAT (D. Sweenby)
10-1: 2. Jaho Lurgana 12-1; 3. Decent Inventior 8-1; 14 ran. 5-1 tav Cortain Cara (4/m).
2. ... (M. Meadel. Totac £10.90: £4.20, £4.90, £2.70. DF: £116.90. CSF: £116.65.
Tricsst: £563.65. Trio: £325.00. After a stawards enquiry, placings unahered
Pharamert £67.00. Quadpot: £29.40.

**- (01242) 226 226 -CHELTENHAM** RACECOURSE \* THE INDEPENDENT 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES (15) 145

NATIONAL HUNT

11TH - 12TH - 13TH MARCH 3 DAY BADGE £125

SALES CLOSE JAN 25TH

the slightest disruption to a horse's preparations will call into question their chance of even reaching the Cotswolds, and yesterday it was the turn of those who have pinned their hopes and hard cash 10 Rough Quest, last year's Grand National winner, to wince at the news from his yard. "He's got a bit of heat in his near-fore tendon, "Terry Casey, Rough Quest's trainer, said.

The Cheltenham Festival may

be seven weeks' distant, but for

owners and trainers, not to

mention punters brave enough

to play the ante-post markets.

the fretful preliminaries have

started already. From now on,

to a big steeplechaser you've just

got to stop for a while. We'll re-

view the situation in a week or

RESULTS

CARLISLE

1.25: 1. MISTER ROSS IP Cerberry, overs fax; 2. Northern Union 5-1; 3. Forever Noble 10-1, 19 ran, 174, nd. J H Rothson, Crook). Tote: £1.90: £1.30, £1.60, £1.60, £4.40. DF: £8.20. CSF: £5.26, fno: £64.30. 1.55: 1. CROWN EQUERRY (P Carberry, 8-13 km; 2. Bold Account 7-1; 2. Tico Gold 6-1, 7 ran, 2, 174. IG Richards, Greystofe), Tote: £1.70, £1.50, £1.80, DF: £5.00. CSF: £5.86.

55 86.

2.25: 1. ELA MATA |8 Gratam 6-5 tov.

2.46: n. Sobo 11-2; 3. Glorugie 13-7; 3 ran. 15, shi-hd. Mrs A Swenbark, Pichmond. Tota £2.00; £1.10, £2.20, £2.00 DF £2.20.

CSF: £8.52. Tricast: £29.90.

2.55: 1. SON OF IRIS (P Niven) 6-1; 2. Westwell Boy 6-5 tov. 3. Stotamatigue 2-1. 5 ran. 7, 2-7; Mrs M Reveloy, Satistum. Tota: £6.40; £2.20, £1.10, DF: £6.80, CSF: £13.74,

3.25: 1. SPARKY GAYLE (B. Slovey) 4-7

£13.74, 3.25; L. SPARRY GAYLE (B Storey) 4.7 tay; 2. Chief Minister 9.4; 3. Singing Sand 40.1. 7 ran. 19. 20. (C Parker, Locketbel, Tota: £1.50; £1.00, £2.50. DF; £1.80. CSF: £2.06.

£2.06.
3.55: 1. BARDAROS (M Foster) 20-1; 2. Pobble Beach 11-2; 3. Haughton Lad 16-1; 4. Ruber 7-1, 15 ran, 7-2 fm Boston Man turnscated Index. 13, 7a, Mess L V Russell, Kinrossi, Tote: £2: 50: £3.60, £1.80, £4.70, £3.50. DF: £44.10, CSP: £132.10. Incast: £1,738.12, Tno: £184.50. Place 6: £9.84, Place 5: £7.72.

**NEWTON ABBOT** 

NEW ION ABBOII

1.35: 1. JUVUSH U Obbornej evens fav;
2. Metonus 11.4; 3. Coentry Lover 6-1. 14
ran. 7, 10. U Old, Wroughton; Tota: £2.00;
£1.10. £1.40. £2.00. DF: £3.10. CSF;
£3.30. Trio: £2.80. NRs; Lord Regal, Western Prayboy, Lord Regal [14-1] withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 applies to board prices only, deduction 5p in the pound

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Galapino

(Lingfield 1.50)

NB: Ramsdens (Leicester 3.00)

2.05: 1. SCOTBY (B Powell) 9-2; 2. Defendthereakin 33-1; 3. Shamagore Warrior 33-1. 1.6 ran, 2-1 fav St Melson Drive (5th), 4, 5. (R Buckler, Bridgott), Tute: £5.50; £1.60, £2.80, £6.60. DF: £43.20. CSF: £134.64. Inc: £115.60.

Inc: £116.50,
2.35: 1. INDIAN ARROW (C. Maude)
12-1: 2. Nr Playfull 6-1: 3. Good For A
Laugh 12-1: 24 ran. 5-2 fav The Lancer (Stnt.)
9, 6. Nr Pipe, Wellington), Tota: £16.10;
£4.70, £2.70, £4.80, Dr. £80.30, CSF;
£74.11. Tocast: £83.1.45, Tho: £159.90,
3.05: 1. CYBORGO (AP MCCO)/8-11 fav.

2. Well Timed 33-1; 3. See Enough 5-1. 16 ran. 20, 22 | M Ppe. Welington; Tote: £2.10; £1.50, £1.90, £1.90. DF: £85.60. CSF: £45.94. Tho: £32.50.

CSF: £45.94. Tric: £32.50.
3.35: 1 MaiD EQUAL (G Supple) 25-1;
2 Ending Court 8-1; 3, Grunge 25-1; 4, Endefeel 10-1, 17 mar. 11-2 fav 7exan Bally, 3,
8. (M Pipe. Weilington). Total: £34.50;
£4.80, £2.10, £6.70, £1.90. DF: £177.50.
CSF: £190.41. Tricast: £4.524.73, 7ro;
£1,348.00. NR: karassic Classic.
4.05: 1 ORSWELL IAD (N Williamson)
10.1; 2 Marchabel 31, 2 fater 3, Reils 186.

10-1; 2. Montebel 11-2 p. for, 3. Bers Life 12-1, 15 ran, 11-2 p. for, 3. Bers Life 12-0, (P Hobbs, Minehead), Totac £12-50; £3.00, £3.10, £4.70. DF; £90.30. CSF; £68,56, Trusst: £646.83, Tric: £187-50. NP:

ace Cappa. 4.35: 1. IRANOS (A P McCoy) 4-5 fav; 2.

4.35c L IRANOS IA P MCCoy 4-5 fav, 2-Dom Beltramo 10-1; 3. Royai Pot Black 10-1, 15 ran. 4, 6, (M Ppe, Wellington), Tota: 52.70; £1.00, £2.80, £4.60, DP: £9.50, CSF £11.99, Tno: £62.20, NR: Clare's Spung, Jeckpot: Not won. Pool of £10,194, 70 car-ned forward to Market Rasen today. Placepot: £1,319.70, Quadpot: £410.20, Place 6: £499.13, Place 5: £456.65.

SOUTHWELL

1.45: 1. SOVIET KING & Sanders) 7-4 for, 2. Swandole Flyer 18-1; 3. Touleton Lady 7-2 a ran. 1%, 10. (P Mitchel). Tota: £2.50; £1.10, £3.00, £1.80. DF: £12.90. CSF: £28.54. 2.15: 1. RAFFLES ROOSTER (Io Human)

he was found guilty of irre-

sponsible riding at Kempton.

LEICESTER

Philosophers 4.00 Sanmartino

(1,30), Bold Charlie (visored) (2,00), WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS; None.

HYPERION

L00 Eaglea Nest 1.30 Award 2.00 Fleet Cadet

2.30 Mr Invader 3.00 Seletan 3.30 Three

Huriles - Good to Soft (food in places).

It high-band, undulung crairse, with a straight rule

Course is 2m 85 of city off Ab. Lekester rathray station (London, St Paneza, - Sheffield the Car. ADMISSION; Adults 50 (OAPs 55) (Accumpanied under 15s free), CAR PARK: Free.

LINKERED FIRST TIME: Lothian Jem (2.00), Belgran (visured)

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Remember Star (2.00) has been sent 205 miles by A D Samb from Bideford, Devon, Royal Sanon (2.30) sent 205 miles by P Bowen from Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

1.00 STONESBY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)
(DIV I) £2,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

(DIV I) £2,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

1 064-730 DONT FORGET CURRIS (11) G M Moore 5 11 6 ... M Bendley
2 534410-2 EAGLES REST (31) N Heroteson 6 11 8 ... M A Fitzgardd
3 0 FRECKOWN (69) Mar 9 Pobeson 7 11 6 ... M Richards
4 P020P0 HOMEST DAME (3) 8 Peace 7 11 6 ... M Richards
5 241-20 HIMDONITE (52) BFJ G Exideg 7 11 6 ... A P McDay
6 FP KNOCKGRIDE (52) F Murby B 11 6 ... M Magdon
7 1.2 MENTMORE TOWERS (80) Mar J Purma 5 11 G ... M Magdon
8 632-033 PEMROSE LEU (42) 0 Noticeson 7 11 6 ... A Minguine
9 D054 SEABROOK LAD (32) M Willerson 5 11 6 ... Liumence
10 41-2 SIOUX TO SPEAK (42) Mes H Ringly 5 11 6 ... B Fenton
11 0613-40 SPENIS DOUBLE (50) N Pleaton-Dames 6 11 6 ... Liumence
10 507 WESTCOTE LAD (990) W Jeris 8 11 6 ... 7 Janies
12 507 WESTCOTE LAD (990) W Jeris 8 11 6 ... 7 Janies
13 P0 FANCY MANCY (74) Mos C Adrisey 6 11 1 ... Li Hervey
13 doctored BETTUME: 2-1 Eagles Rest, 3-1 Pormose Lad, 5-1 Montmore Towers, 6-1
Soularook Lad, 7-1 Sloox To Speak, Nextonba, 20-1 others

1.30 STONESBY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)

2.00 BROOK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 2m

022412 FLEET CADET (\$2) (CD) (BF) M Pige 6 11 12 ....... G Supple V

5/2-0622 LIME STREET BLUES (34) C Brooks 6 11 9 .......... Bay

0000P- BERTS CHOICE (\$23) J O'Shea 6 10 9..... Michael B

2.30 RABBIT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3m

HYPERION

1.20 Mystery Matthias 1.50 Galapino 2.20 Mas-terstroke 2.50 Quiet Arch 3.20 Hever Golf Stormer

GOING: Standard.

STALLS: Inside, except. I'm (outside).

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Middle numbers may be best for Gf.

E. Left-hand, sharp course (Equitrack surface).

E. Course is somb-east of town on B3028. Lingdeld station (served by London Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: One enclosure 50. CAR PARE: Club 53; remainder free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Topup (1.50), Seretse's Nephew (3.20), Ben Guan (visored) (2.50), Formidable Spirit (visored,

3.20).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Galapino (1.50) won
at Wolverhampton; Persian Conquert (1.60) & Masterstroke
(2.20) both won here on Tuesday; Countless Times (3.20) won

here on Saurday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Madonna Da Roesi (1.20) has been sen. 288 miles by M Dods from Piercebridge, Co Durham; As-Is (2.20) & Mirror Four Sport (3.20) sent 270 miles by M Johnston from Middeham, North Yorkshire.

1.20 HUNGERFORD APPRENTICES HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £2,800 added 7f

(CLASS F) (DIV 1) 2-2-0-0 accident 71

3443-34 BARRIASON (5) (20) 6 L Moor 5 9 10 — 8 Faultoner (3) 5

63031-5 RIMM (1,4) (20) Mass G Kollewy 4 9 8 Jangain Galfatoner (6) 9

00002-3 BLUSTING GREHNORER (1,3) M Febreston-Gody 5 9 4 . F Lyach 3

042-432 MYSTERY MATTHAS (7) MASs 8 Sarder's 4 8 10 — 10

10 00005-5 ALLISTINES DANCER (1,7) 7 J Naughton 4 8 4 ... F Pessery (3) 10

00000-6 DISTANT DYNASTY (7) (Cl 8 Paures 7 7 13 .... A Dely (3) 11

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00000-9 DISTANT DYNASTY (7) (Cl 8 Paures 7 7 13 .... A Dely (3) 11

- 11 declared -Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weight: Mad Alex 7st 8th, Supreme

Rusion & Dia Georgy 7st 7b. BETTINE 5-2 Runit, 7-2 Barbacon, 5-1 Bloching Groundler, Mystery Ma 6-1 Allstars Deccer, 10-1 Distant Dynasty, 14-1 others

3.50 Matthias Mystique 4.20 Statistician

000-FPP LOTHIAN JEW (7) J Wharton 8 10 11 ....

LINGFIELD

SIS RACING

(DIV II) £2,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

GOING: Chase course - Good to Firm (Good in places);

Huntles - Good to Soft (Good in plan

10 days, but it's not looking very from 27 January after he was

The jockey was stood down

completed, failed in deand for those trying to kid response. Never mind themselves that it did not sound forward to me menaling. too desperate, there was worse to follow. "When that happens the first trace night; exciting new clan con

Just as you're it ginear cover from the ill-clie. festive in er-indulgen comes Burns Night lea your New Year is clon-Neill Clark, a firm of a gian lawrer- which have due diligener ant (a) AIM the teleprone is have

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Commence of the Contract

Mishaps to Ceiting and Zembesi Spirit eased NETHERSY SAID's task at Southwell seven weeks aga, but he came home a distance clear and impressed race-readers. Netherly Seid, who jumped boldly, was whining for Kate Milligan on his first start since being trained by jumpo Wildnson, but has switched again to Peter Beaumont, whose horses are running well. Netherly Said has more on his plate this time but has gone up only 6th and he stayed on strongly when successful over the course and distance last April. Alfadeer has 12st to carry, but takes a drop in grade and his recent form looks sound enough. He failed by only a half-length to peg back Regal Romper at Wetherby in early November and he was a fair that the start of th onto to Easy, lover and peep beason over not miss and a hair at new support the wind of that month. He can go well fresh and could find his stamins coming into play with such as Crafty Chaptain, Real Glee and Reve De Valee ensuring a strong pace. Kindle's De-light is beginning to look well handicapped and ran well enough behind 700 Plush at Wind-sor in November to suggest his turn will come, while Real Glee can figure in the finish if he avoids mistakes. Dr Rocket has yet to manage a win here and usually runs well at Tow-cester.

Selection: METHERBY SAID BLASTER WATSON (M W First) C Smith 7 11 4... BLASTER WAYSON ON W First C Smith 7 11 4

DONNESALE (Sr Smich Lycet Green) T Tate 5 11 4

EWERCARGELL (PLAY CRIEN) M Soversty 5 11 4

EWERCARGELL (PLZ) (Alay P Dodo) C Mann 5 11 4

EWERCARGELL (PLZ) (Alay P Dodo) C Mann 5 11 4

EWERCARGELL (PLZ) (Alay P Dodo) C Mann 5 11 4

EWERCARGELL (PLZ) (Alay P Dodo) C Mann 5 11 4

EWERCARGELL (PLZ) (Alay P Dodo) C Mann 5 11 4

TYCOON PRINCE IG E CHIEREN D Shaw 4 10 6.

Escarteligue (D Nicholson, 25-1 Birmsey (R Akehurst) 33-1 33-1 33-1 Cookney Lad IN Meade) 25-1 33-1 20-1 Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Chetrenham, Tuesday, 11 March)

## tial entry stage 12 months ago, but are the second highest fig-

to emulate Alderbrook and Royal Gait by winning hur-dling's Blue Riband in their novice year include Boardroom Shuffle, Istabraq and Sanmartigo. The Champion entries, headed by last year's winner, Collier Bay, are down by 16 on the ini-

1.10 Pip's Dream 1.40 Mim-Lou-And

2.40 Monymoss

2.10 HOLY STING (nap)

the Champion Hurdle pub-

lished yesterday. Other leading

**MARKET RASEN** 3.10 Beacon Flight 3.40 Alladeer (nb)

4.10 Donnegale

ELADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS; Mrs M Reveley—21 winners from 83 runners gives a success ratio of 25.3% and a loss to a 51 level stake of 53.79; K Morgan—16 winners, 89 runners, 16.2%, -52.12; J PirsGerald—15 winners, 93 runners, 16.1%, -5.14.15; K Balley—13 winners, 46 runners, 20.1%, +5.13.73.

ELADING JOCKETS; M Dwyser—20 winners, 110 rides, 18.2%, -5.29.48; P Niven—20 winners, 111 rides, 18.0%, -58.96; L Wyser—19 winners, 100 rides, 17.4%, -52.64; A S Sadith—18 winners, 125 rides, 14.4%, -531.38.

BLINKERED PIRST TIME: Kamiliane (2.40); Tycoon Prince (4.10).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN HAYS; None.
LONG-DESTANCE EUNNERS: White Plaing (1.10), Indian Jockey (1.40), Ramstown Bill (2.10) & St McBon Leisure (3.10) have been sent 350 miles by M Pipe from Nicholashayne, Devon; Easy Listening (1.10) sent 35 miles by N Hawke from Chard, Samerset. 00-4 BARTON SCAMP (73) (Mrs H J Clarke) 5 Brookshow 5 11 5.

by of out in the ground. Where Plains, on the other hand, showed a preference for fast going in winning four times lest year for Michael Bell. He is now with Martin Pipe after changing hands in the autumn for 22,000gms. Another with a chance is Easy Usbaning, a usual sort on the Flat for Roger Chariton and a sensitiation that to Yet Again at Taumon first time 1.40 SCOTHERN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £2,987 A 8 Smbi

when Yubralee want off in front. Mm-Lou-And lacked a recent outing then so the two-morth ley-off isn't a problem. Carcus Line's progress means that Eurotwiet has a 27to pull for about six lengths on Hoydock running behind Saint Cael. Eurotwist was beatten in a two-and-a-half mile claimer on his return to Haydock but the longer trip may have contributed to thist detect and he must be a threat on these terms. With Penny A Day finishing third in The Lactorial Hurdle, Plassam's Wesherby second to Penny A Day looks a solid effort. That race has yet to throw up a subsequent winner, however, and Fassan looks vulnerable after failing to land the odds in a nowne event at Hexham. Having missed all of last season, lealing was probably still in need of the run when third of four behind Severn Gale at Warvick, but Sassiers is fighting fit following a couple of Flat runs which suggest he's in good form at present. 2.10 ERIC & LUCY PAPWORTH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 3m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,048 would be easier to see him bouncing back if there were more cut in the ground, while Sparrow Hall runs here after being taken out of the staying chase at Cafferick on Saturday. Bianntown Bibl's second to Baily Clover at Folkestone suggests he's back in business, but this
looks a bit tougher than the Musselburgh race won by Humfeane Andrew, He's not accommuch opportunity to show what he can do in staying bandcaps, however, and might improve. CFF08> Ocean Leader's Southwell win from Record Lover L13th out of the handicap today) might not amount to much. 2.40 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 6f 110yds Penalty Value £3,422 Richard Guer

34-3241 MONTMOSS (41) IS Powell Mrs S Smith 8 11 2

U1/ GENERAL GROSS (620) (CD) (Lord Yarborough) J Leigh 9 11 0

21/3 MAJOR LOOK (9/2) (52) (Mrs H I J Canel S Brookshow 9 11 0

OFFPPO DESPERATE DAYS (54) (Fired World / Worly 8 10 10

P DISPOJ, DANCER (7) II E Home) Mrs V Acordey 8 10 10 8 P DISPOL DANCER (7) IE Francii Mir V Aconiey 8 10 10 Mr R Thornton (5) 6 SF55 FAR ALIV (23) (A Miner) M Soversity 7 10 10 D Danton (7) (16F5/0 HALKOPOUS (3L3) (Africe Christodolou) Miss V Wilherms 11 10 10 Mr R Thornton (6) 11/17 HAWKER HINNER (USA) (Africe Christodolou) Miss V Wilherms 11 10 10 Mr Danton (10 Mr Danton (

hoding an her chasing debut. Hewever Hunter seems none too instable and Me the mark in a novice handicap chase at Hexham last time, is a better atternat the trip well and has an edge in expension over most of these. Selections A 3.10 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £2,700 

3.40 MARKET RASEN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £2,892 

NOBLE TOM (Mrs A Collins) R Collins 5 11 4 ..... AUSANDE (Pell-meil Parmers) J Gover 5 10 13 ....

- 16 declared -BETTING: 7-2 Jessica One, 9-2 Olg For Gold, 11-2 Juniper Hill, 5-1 Don Lost in The Post, 10-1 invercentill, My Vantage, 12-1 Cymeral-Gipsy, Noble Tom, 20-1 others.

Tote Gold Trophy Handicap Hurdle (2m 110yds) Tota Horse (Trainer/weight) Mistinguett (N Twiston-Davies/10st3lb) 5-1 Penny A Day (Mrs M Reveley/10st2lb) 7:1 Make A Stand (M Pipe 10st3lb) 8-1 7:1 Direct Route (J.H. Johnson 9st 12tb) 10-1 12-1 Storm Damage (P Nicholis/10st1fb) 12-1 12-1

14-1

12-1

Dato Star (J M Jeffersory10st13b)

Mister Moroee (N Tenston Davies/10st3to)

RACING'S FUTURES MARKET

Bookmakers' ante-post lists are developments -- best prices are

racing's futures market. Read- in bold - in this sphere with The ers can catch up with the latest Independent's Tuesday service.

shake is as good as a contract. Rimsey (R Menus)/10:21 1(b)		16-1		16-1
I can't possibly put the man up Paddy's Return (F Murphy 10si6th)		20-1		14-1
on one of mine again, it is Zabad (D Nicholson/10st@b)		20-1		14-1
against my principles." Each-way a quarter the odds, plot	ces 1, 2, 3	. 4 (Newbury.	Sarurday, 8 Fel	bruaryi
Dave Roberts, McCoy's	_			
agent, made a fair attempt at				
damage limitation. "Tony said	la consilia	/O 4.40		
it's all very upsetting," Roberts Champion 1	<u>uraie</u>	(ZM J.TO	yas)	
said, "because they have had Horse (framer)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tote
some good times together and Coller Bay (1 Old)	T-2	3-1	3-1	T-2
Paul has belped him a lot." Large Action (O Sherwood)	6-1	6-1	5-1	7-1
Roberts insisted that McCov Space Trucker (Mrs.) Hammagon)	7.1	6-1	6-1	6-1
will continue to ride as a free- Date Star (J M Jetterson)	12-1	14-1	12-1	14-1
lance until the end of the sea- Senmartino (D Nicholson)	8-1	10-1	14-1	9-1
son, but the champion's alliance	154	24.5	20-2	24.5
with Martin Pipe will surchy   Interpreted (A O'Bnen)	16-1	14-1	10-1	14-1
grow ever stronger, even if Castle Sweep (D Nicholson)	16-1	16-1	12-1	20-1
trainer and jockey do not agree Relied (D Nonolson)	20-1	20-1	14-1	20-1

Horse (Trainer)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Total
Imperial Call (F Sutherland)	4-1	7-2	7.2	7-:
Coome Hill (W Denns)	6-1	6.1	r-1	T <sub>2</sub>
One Man (G Richards)	6-1	÷-1	7-1	7-
Addington Boy (G Richards)	12-1	12-1	10-1	11-
Dorans Pride (M Houngan)	12-1	14-1	10-1	14-
Mr Mulligan (N Chance)	14-1	14-1	12-1	14-
The Grey Monk (G Richards)	16-1	12-1	10-1	14.
Banje (D Nicholson)	16-1	20-1	16-1	16-
Jodami (P Beaumont)	20-1	25-1	14-1	16-
Maamur (T Forster)	20-1	25-1	25-1	25-
Unguided Missile (G Richards)	20-1	20-1	20-1	25-
Challenger Du Luc (M Pipe)	20-1	33-1	39-1	33-

er Heuter, 18-1 Geoeral Giggs, 20-1 Fair NBy, 25-1 others.

FORM GUIDE

MAJOR LOOK, a 10-furiong Flat winner in New Zeatand in 1994, had two runs over fences in the 1994-95 campaign and empressively beat Fritysevenchannels and so others in a nonce hunter chase at Lutowater in the May. He trid well considering his inexperience and anoce hunter chase at Lutowater in the May. He trid well considering his inexperience and emprovement would give him a good chance. Helikopous produced some high-class form over hundles in his prime but he has been generally disappointing since Landing the West Yorkshire Huntle at Wetherby in 1994. He was a good jumper of hundles and is no fortom hope to hun well after his lengthy absence. He has joined Venero Williams from Mark Yompkins and harder at vergrany in 1994. He was a good prince of intrinse and a line of the his lengthy absence. He has joined Venena Williams from Mark Tompkins and the change of yard may have perhed him up. Kamilkaze has shown some decant hurdles form and has the pace to figure the is by Kins out of Infamy) if he jumps adequately, but he rates a hasy proposition over fences with the bilinkers on. Mass Optimist had won masse hurdle races at Hereford and Wetherby prior to winning an EBF novice handicap at Chellenham in the spring. This was a Grade Three event with good prize money and she is worth register to the effective decay the decay the property of the

P23-012 REAL GLEE (42) John Stonel J Quarte S 11 10...
22/1-64P KINDLE'S DELIGHT (46) Castle Farm Stud) Miss H Knight 9 11 2...
RL22-1.1 NETHERBY SAID (48) (CD) (Mrs S Sunser P Becument 7 11 1...
22/1-642 GRAFTY CHAPLAN (36) (CD) (M MCCan 11 10 12...
22/3-643 REVE DE VALSE (86A) (42) (D) (67) (R Ichneon) R Ichneon 10 10 9...
24-3-623 DR ROCKET (33) (The Rocketers) R Dickn 12 10 4...

Afrimum seight: 10st. True handicap weight: Copper Cable 3st 2b.
SETTRICS 3-1 Notherby Seld, 4-1 Africaet, 5-1 Real Glee, 13-2 Dr Rocket, Marble Man, Y-1 Vindle's
Delight, 8-1 Craffy Chaplein, 10-1 Leasts, Rave De Value, 12-1 Leasts, 20-1 Copper Cable.

FORM GUIDE
Mishaps to Celtino and Zembesi Spirit eased NETHERBY SAID's task at Southwell sever

4.10 WEST RASEN STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 1m 5f 110yds Penaity Value £1,287 ....N Range \_D Part ...B CEfford AUSAINDE (Pet-marker) Harries) (Shopheds Crook Partnersho) J Culinan 5 10 13.... V Settler)
SYMCORON-GYPSY (The Cymcak Thoroughbred Racing Club) 6 Holmes 5 10 13... R Samitity
JESSICA ONE (71) WH Strateshoft Mar M Revelop 6 10 13... P News
SUMSTWORD Ours Wendy Smith) M Baradough 6 10 13... R Sample
DIG FOR GOLD (C Pigts) Miss S Hell 5 10 6... M Bentley ....R Supple ....N Bentley O LOST IN THE POST (11) (Guy Reed) C Thornton 4 10 8 ..... MY VANTAGE (Stephen J Curita) M W Easterby 5 10 6 ..... .K Horrocks (7) .....G Parkin (3)

Rough blow for Festival speculators Racing hopeful for the Gold Cup, or for that he starts at comfortably year that no sooner had Rough day by Tony McCoy, a booking Quest's name started to reand one of Nicholls's principal the rest of the season." longer odds. which came as something of a Casey's frustration vester-In addition to his victory at patrons, later insisted that Mc-

day was compounded by the fact Aintree last season, Rough Quest finished runner-up to that Rough Quest appeared to Imperial Call in the Guld Cup, be in excellent heart ahead of and had been as low as 6-1 to his next intended engagement, go one better in March, Many in the Pillar Chase over the bookmakers removed him from Gold Cup course on Saturday. their Festival betting altogeth-er yesterday, and Coral also "He's preity fit at the moment and he looks very well," the trainer said, allowing those with scratched him from their Grand National list, but William Hill long-standing bets to hope that, continue to offer 5-1 with a run if his injury is less serious than for the Gold Cup. This seems it appears, a swift return to peak fitness may not be beyond his less than generous when you consider that, even if Rough reach. Anyone that optimistic, Quest does make it to the start however, should probably not on 13 March, an interrupted be in the betting game at all. preparation and, perhaps, lack of a prep race should ensure

Such is the fevered activity in the markets at this time of the

by Maguire's mount, Adilov, ap-

novices hurdle.

cede from Gold Cup calculations than another emerged to repace it. Martin Pipe's Cyborgo, winner of the Stavers' Hurdle at tast year's Festival, bad not jumped a fence in public vesterday morning, but after an effortless success in his first novice chase at Newton Abbot. he is available at just 16-1 (from less than two months' time. That price is available only on

surprise to Paul Nichotls on Sunday afternoon, since the trainer believed that his "gentleman's agreement" with the champion jockey required Mc-Coy to ride his runner, Flaked As a result, McCoy must now reconcile himself to the first serious setback of what had pre-

Tony Culhane and John

yesterday. The jockeys' mounts

finished second and third.

حكذا من الاعل

Cov "will never ride for me Barber added: "I am very disappointed with Tony. If you are in business, a gentleman's agreement is binding. That's

bow I run my business, and as far as I am concerned, a handshake is as good as a contract. I can't possibly put the man up viously seemed to be a charmed career. Nicholls will now give on one of mine again, it against my principles."

Dave Roberts, McCoy Philip Hide first refusal on such excellent prospects as See More Business and Belmont King, agent, made a fair attempt damage limitation. "Tony sai and while the trainer implied vesterday morning that McCoy it's all very upsetting," Rober might still be considered as a said, "because they have ha back-up, Paul Barber, partsome good times together an Paul has beloed him a loi."

a formal contract. Or, for that

matter, a gentleman's agree-

**Bold entry for Juyush** Juyush, an impressive winner of a maiden hurdle at Newton Abbot yesterday on his debut over timber, is among 50 entries for

GOING: Chases - Good (Good to Soft patches); Hurdles - Good (Good to Firm patches).

Right-hand, sharp, unduisting careni. Run-in of one furlong.

Course is east of town on AG31. Market Rason rad station (Lincoln - Grimsby line)
Ira. ADMISSION: Clab 512.50; Tattersalis \$5.50 (OAPs who are members of course's
Jubilee Clab half price). GAR PARK: picnic areas \$2, remainder free.

1.10 MIDDLE RASEN NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £2,560

FORM GLIDE

But for a bod mistake at the final fight, HONEYSCHOICE would probably have beaten the much more experienced Rossel at Musselburgh, an encouraging first run over hundres even if he was gating 2.4th from the winner. Rossel got the better of highly-rated Soldat at Kelsolast Friday and, with improvement likely, Honeyschoice should play a prominent part (although he's now up against older horses in a tougher race). Night Diance also ran well first time over hundles, finishing fourth when Sherpical upset Moonax in a big field at Huntingdon on 10 December, while two newcomers that look certain to make a race of it are Suranona and Whittle Pfains, On the Fatt, Suranon was higher class than Honeyschoice and Night Dance and White Pfains and, as he was a front-runner, he could stretch Honeyschoice and Night Dance from a stamma point-of-view, Suranona's wins in tably show that he likes planty of act in the pround. White Pfains, on the other hand, showed a preference for fast go-

Last season, GAIL THE SHOTS beat Go Sily over three miles and three futiongs at Sedgefield and then finished second to the same horse three. There's no doubt that Cail The Shots 
has the necessary stamina and he was a fair fourth behind the improving by House on his 
reappearance in November, also at Sedgefield, and Normen Williamson is an encouraging 
choice of nder. By House confirmed his well-being when he followed up over course and 
distance, beating Spanrow Hall (third) eight lengths. Old Sprowston Boy finished a remote 
sixth and surely wouldn't have beaten Cool Weather (improved nun in first-time blinkers) 
had that one managed a clear round. In the same race, Holly Sting was a strong fancy on 
the strength of his Carlesle third to Parsons Boy but he was brought down early on. Since 
these Lists Court have a belief concentrations. Bearving Platfair and a Bander (2015). then, Holy Sting has run below expectations in Pennine Pride's race at Bangor (4m1f). It

SMURFIT CHAMPION HURDLE (Cheltentram, 1.1. Marchi Entriess Beggars Banquet, Birnsey, Boardroom Shuffle, Castle
Seese, Chaprass, Chief's Song, Cochery Lot.
Colher Bay, Cottaer Chief, Dardjini, Dato Stat.
Dieams End, Edelweis Du Moulin, Embellistende, Escarafigue, Eskirno Nel, Guest Performance, Hill Society, I'm Supposin,
Indefence, Istabraq, Just Lutie, Juyush,
Kayaara, Khayrawan, Large Action, Lear
White, Make A Stand, Master Tirbe, Mister
Morose, Mistinguett, Moonau, Moonsh,
Mystical Cny, Paddy's Return, Patter Noster,
Penny A Day, Pratwell, Retkeel, Right Win,
Rolf A Dolar, Romence, Sarrimartin, Space
Trucker, Squire Silk, Storm Demage, Theatreworld, Tragic Hero, Urubande, Zabadi. first-season hurdlers attempting

1 CO4 BARTON SCAMP (73) (Ais H J Clarket S Brockshar 5 11 5 N Williamson 2 SASY LISTERIBRIG (USA) (40) (Desk Kacy Flint in Hawle 5 11 5 N A Williamson 3 C42403 MIGHZ CHARMIDK (34) (N Inke) M Barrachugh 5 11 5 N A Williamson 5 A MIGHZ CHARMIDK (34) (N Inke) M Barrachugh 5 11 5 N A S SIMBN 6 C2 SHAMARIN ANA (USA) (647) (D R SCHORT) J Smyth-Osbourne 6 11 5 R Supple 7 O SHRUET'S TIME (7) (Pau Clarco) Mc J Brown 6 11 5 P Corberty 3 SURAMON (Mrs Dian Hene) MS D Haint Brief 5 11 5 N A S Simbn 9 3-52 TOTAL, MY (32) (P M Warren) C Menn 8 11 5 N A SCHORT (1 They Suramon M R SID STAN (1 They ST SID ST SID STAN (1 They ST SID ST SID STAN (1 They ST SID ST SID ST SID STAN (1 THEY SID ST S

....Ilir A Wintle (7)

3412U-4 CALL THE SHOTS (TO) (John Wade) I Wade 8 10 8 ...... 4-PPPS2 BANNTOWN BILL (35) (C) (Eric Scertr) M Pipe 8 10 8 ..... 41-PS1 HUNROCANE ANDREW (25) (J A Moore) J Moore 9 10 6 ... \_D Watel, V .....N Smith ....Ross Berry (7) .....A 6 Smith 8 Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Sprowston Boy 9st 13th, Cool Weather 9st 10th, Record Lost Sci 1b.

BETTING: 7-2 Spanow Hall, 4-1 Banatowa BH, 9-2 Call The Shorts, 5-1 Holy Sting, 7-1 Hurdcane Andrew, 10-1 Cool Weather, Ocean Leader, 12-1 Change The Reign, 20-1 others

FORM GUIDE

Lost season, CALL THE SHOTS bear Go Sily over three miles and three furious at Sedge-

3.50 TOWER HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 2m 44302-2: STAR RAGE (6) (0) J.L. Hams 7 9 12 ... J. Westver 4 0022-21: CEMERAL HAVEN (10) (C) 7.1 Naugriton 4 8 2... D. Holland 5 008226- COLERBORE (14) (CD) J. Treeton 8 8 6... A. Cont. S 03220-5 RANDOM KRIDNESS (10) R. Ingam 4 8 6... J. Stack 7 (CLASS F) (DIV II) £2,800 added 7f

620410- ABSOLUTELYSTUNONNG (32) (C) Mrs 8 Waring 4 9 4

25-1) with William Hill to beat Imperial Call and company in request, however, since the firm believe that a defence of his Stayers' championship remains the most likely option. Cyborgo was ridden yester-Maguire appeals against irresponsible charge Adrian Maguire has lodged an appeal against the six-day ban he received on Saturday when he received on Saturday when the received on Saturday when he received o Brambill were banned for five and two days respectively for imation secretary. "Michael is goproper and careless riding reing to look at a video of the race spectively in Southwell's finale

proaching the first flight in the tonight," Maguire said, "and we Maguire had until 5pm last will take things from there." 

Minimum: 10st. True weights Opan's Jenspot 9st 8lb, King's Courser 9st 6lb. BETTENG: 11-4 Call Mie River, 6-1 Muoptup Paul, 17-1 Solo Gent, 9-1 Just One Canaletto, 10-1 Mr Invader, Yeoman Worrlor, 12-1 others 3.00 DANIEL LAMBERT HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds 

3.30 DICK CHRISTIAN NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 4f 110yds 1 133-231 SLIMSSEY (41) (10) N Goseloe 7 11 10 A Thomston
1 133-231 SLIMSSEY (41) (10) N Goseloe 7 11 10 D O'Sellbean
3 39'04'-S SOUMDS GOLDEN (40) I Wayle 9 11 4 Waldey (7)
4 0025'60 SUPER RICHARY (47) B Palang 9 11 4 R Partont
5 UJFFD. THREE PHOLOGOPHERS (50) T Forsar 8 11 4 S Wynne
8 05'03-P UNICLE ALEY (24) Mass It Nogel 8 11 4 S Fember
7 05'63-FF WOT NO GIN (46) A J WRON 8 11 4 S Fember
8 0PD-455 PENNAMY COTTAGE (40) Mass 9 10 13 S Fember
9 PRIMITIVE PENNY (56) Mrs D Halve 8 10 13 6 Hogsen [3]
10 B034 SNOWDOW LILY (5) P Weether 6 10 13 Filmsband (3)
11 BETTING: 9-4 Three Philosophers, 5-2 Shagishy, 7-2 Karsar, 7-1 Lincle Algy,
8-1 Wot No Gin, 12-1 Sounds Golden, Pennsont Cottage, 16-1 others

Alinman weight, 10st, Tine wegits: Opficial 9st 13th, Casso's Boy 9st 9th, BETTINE: 5-1 Out Raiding, 5-1 Remoders, 15-2 Eplogy, 8-1 Veppeinor, 10-1 Garaiyba, Reoganesque, 12-1 Joneno, Sciotas, 14-1 others

4.00 CROKTON PARK NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m

.....R Decovered

120/3-1 RED BLAZER (33) (D) Mass H MAGN. 8 11 11 .

MOONAX (42) (BF) 8 Hits 6 11 5...

5P WORTH THE BILL (S1) F Jordan 4 10 7 ....

BETTING: 4-6 Masterstroke, 5-2 Teome, T-1. As-le, 6-1 March Marigold,

2.50 ALBERT HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 2f

8 3013-63 TACME (7) P 0 Evens 2.8...

12-1 Our Kevin, 20-1 Ditty Box

NO MATTER (38) R Rove 6 11 5

O APACHE PARK (USA) [53] M Shippand 4 10 7 ... C Linvellyn 42 CIRCLE STAR (SB) O Nicholson 4 10 7 ... Doesbriik 44 SHIPPANDRO PANISHE (SB) K Bridgwetz 4 10 7 R. Misseny (3) 9 NORTHERN FLIET (43) (BF) Mrs A Perrutt 4 10 7

6		added 1m 2f
L	63501-1	STEAMROLLER STANLY (17) (C) COper 4 9 12 _ G Curter T
2	0/23211-	BAROSSA VALLEY (22) (CD) P Butter 69 11 D Gallitos (5) 2
3	2/23100-	MUTADARRA (176) W Musson 4 8 6 D R McCabe 8
ı	434600-	LAW DANCER (124) 7 Mas 4 9 4 S Senders 2
,	021641	SOVIET BRIDE (131) (D) S Dow 5 9 1 A Duly (5) 6
3	46550-2	
7	035044	NO PATTERN (22) (C) G L Moore 5 8 9 Quien 9 V
3	064500-	SWEET SUPPOSIN (45) (CD) CD-yer 6 2.4   Stack 4 V
•	00302-3	BEN GUNN (15) (BF) P Walkyn 5 7 13 D Weight 6 V
Ω	3235-12	QUIET ARCH (7) (CD) (BF) W Mur 4 7 12   Branchill (7) 10
		- 10 declared -
_		
E	TING: 5-2	Barosea Valley, 9-2 Robellion, 5-1 Steamroller Starty, 8-
1	TING: 5-2 wlet Arch,	
9	wolet Arch,	Barcose Valley, 9-2 Robellion, 5-1 Steamroller Stanty, 6- Soviet Bride, 7-1 Law Dencer, 8-1 Mutadarra, 10-1 others
9	wolet Arch,	Barcose Valley, 9-2 Robellion, 5-1 Steamroller Stanty, 6- Soviet Bride, 7-1 Law Dencer, 8-1 Mutadarra, 10-1 others
9	wolet Arch,	Berosen Valley, 9-2 Robellion, 5-1 Steamroller Stanty, 6- Soviet Bride, 7-1 Law Dencer, 8-1 Mutadarra, 10-1 others CHELSEA HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300
9	3.20	Berosen Valley, 9-2 Robellion, 5-1 Steamroller Stanty, 6- Soviet Bride, 7-1 Law Dencer, 8-1 Mutadarra, 10-1 others CHELSEA HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 addled 3YO 6f
9	8.20 6032-01	Berosen Valley, 9-2 Robellion, 5-1 Steamroller Stanty, 6- Soviet Bride, 7-1 Law Dencer, 8-1 Mutadarra, 10-1 others CHELSEA HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3YO 6f COUNTESS TREES (2) (CD) WI Mar 9 12 (7ct) Williams (7) 5
9	8.20 6032-01 005610-	Barcana Valley, 9-2 Robellion, 5-1 Steamroller Starty, 6- Soviet Bride, 7-1 Law Deccer, 8-1 Mutadarra, 10-1 others CHELSEA HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 addled 3YO 6f COUNCESS TANSS (8) (CD) W Mur 9 12 (7cd) Williamson (7) 5 SPARRUNG EDGE (48), (D) CD-yer 9 7
9	6032-01 005610- 606-43	Berosen Valley, 9-2 Robellion, 5-1 Stenanolier Stanty, 6- Soviet Bride, 7-1 Law Dencer, 8-1 Mutadarra, 10-1 others CHELSEA HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3YO 6f COUNCES TRAISE (8) (D) C Doyer 97 — D R McCabe 6 SEENT WEAPON (7) K McLuffle 8 6 — S. Sanders 6
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1.50 WESTMINSTER CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 4f 244/060- ENGLISH RIVADER (193) (0) R Aleburst 6 9 3...5 Sanders 5 24A/061 - ENGLISH MYNDER (133) (1) PLANSIS 6 9 3...5 SARONE 5 8 5604-21 GALAPMO (6) (2) (6) G Barey 4 9 3 .... All Filmmor 3 15103-1 PERSIAN CONQUEST (7) (CD) PLANSIS 6 9 3... All Filmmor 3 10036-3 ZAMID (16A) (6) (C) PLANSIS 6 9 3 ... All Filmmor 3 25000-0 BATH (1009HT (10) Plansis 1 9 ... All Filmmor 3 Context 4 00300 - TOPUP (25) 1 Was 4 8 5 .... All Filmmor 3 Address 1 6 declared - 8 declared - 4 1 Barrier Communic 6 3 RETTRIC: 11-4 Galapino, 3-1 English Invador, 4-1 Persian Compaest, 9-2 Zabid, 6-1 Topus, 8-1 Hath Knight 2.20 VAUXHALL SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,875 added 3YO 1m 4035-41 MASTERSTRONE (7) (C) 8 Meeten 9 7. 506-5 AS-45 (20) M Johnson 8 11 630860 OUR KEVIN (64) K McAuffle 8 11. 

Alphain cheap. Shiphain other Sures. (L.S. ph., Sermon S 1824 47)

WARKET RASEN

## A Lions captain must command his place on merit. We do not know yet whether Wainwright will be able to do this that he should he made captain. Wainwright is, as it happens, a player of more then moderate about the mode

This morning I am in good spirits, not only because Wales beat Scotland, but also because I put £100 on them and France in a double which came off. I do not suppose I shall get much back, though I paid the tax first: but it is hetter than the proverhial slap in the face with a wet haddock. I also put £100 on France at 15-8 to win the Five Nations' Championship. England were 11-10 and Wales 6-1.

The latter was, I thought, an attractive bet. It looks even more attractive today. But I still think Wales will lose to France at Parc des Princes, and that France will beat both Scotland and England. I also take Wales to make short work of Ireland at Cardiff and to beat England there as well. even if it takes a little has survived the foolishness of many

longer. So my prediction is France (predominantly English) persons in to win the Grand Slam and the championship, Wales the Triple Crown. In some ways I hope I am incor-

rect. It would be marvellous to see Wales win the title, though I should be more than £100 worse off as a result. It would be almost as gratifying if Scotland and Ireland recovered from their bad starts. The Five Nations is, in my opinion, not merely the greatest rugby but the greatest sporting competition in the world. Its attraction lies in its unpredictability. In recent years France and England have tended to come out top too often for the good of the competition.

The performance of Wales, at any rate, indicates that times may be changing. And, if the Five Nations

the new era, then so also have the Lions, who go to South Africa in the summer. It was surprising that so much comment on the Scotland-Wales match had a Lions twist to it.

Understandahly, the Ireland-France encounter generated less talk of this nature, though even here the Irish television commentator suggested that Jeremy Davidson would be a strong contender for the Lions second row. I can think of five other stronger candidates offhand. But let that pass.

The most flagrant case of prematch puffing concerned Rob Wainwright for the Lions captaincy. He is what I call the E W Swanton candidate. I know perfectly well that the



about rugby as well. He embodies what I have in mind. If a player of moderate abilities is a former public schoolboy, a Cambridge Blue and an Army officer - all of which Wainwright is -- the Swantons of this world venerable journalist writes chiefly at once get together to demand

player of more then moderate abilities. He is a very good player indeed, but as a No 6 rather than as a No 8. It may be that a Lions firstchoice back row would consist of him. Scott Ouinnell and AN Other. But it is too early in the international season for us to judge. A Lions captain must command his place on

Wainwright will be able to do this. Certainly his comments after the match were ill judged. If Scotland were, as he maintained, the victims of bad luck, it was his task to raise their spirits. This he singularly failed to do. He is certainly no challenge to Quinnell at No 8.

merit. We do not know yet whether

Quinnell is similar to Dean

around him. An England player once told me that, with Richards in the team, you felt that anything was possible and, even more importantly, that he would protect you. Quinnell has the same effect. So has Scott Gibbs at inside cen-

tre. Allan Bateman outside him is almost the equal of Gary Connolly. It will be difficult for any country in the competition to come up with a better pair, not least because they are performing in the insideoutside roles which suit them best.

Though Jack Rowell could still pick Jim Fallon, John Bentley or both on the wing if he wanted to the difference between England and Wales is that Wales's league players

as England's league players are birds of passage, such as Connolly and Jason Robinson.

At the end of Rugh, Special, there was transmitted a rousing rendition by a male voice choir of "Cwm Rhondda" in Welsh. In 50 years of watching Wales, not only at Cardiff but until the early 1950s in Swansea as well, I have never heard the hymn sung in Welsh, always in English. Now the crowd at Cardiff are unable to sing it at all. "Why Oh Why. Delilah" represents the height of their aspirations. But at least the Welsh are in decent jerseys once again. They no longer look like Christmas trees. That, among other encouraging signs, is something to be grateful for.

# **Cork intends to** recover for Test

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Hamilton Northern Districts 69 and 259 England 294 and 38 England win by 10 wickets

The Dominic Cork factor continues to make its presence felt, and England's demolition of Northern Districts by 10 wickets yesterday was as much to do with his absence with an injured back as it was to do with his marvellous bowling on the first day.

Like a certain lager, Cork's unavailability seems to have reached parts of his team that no one else could reach. His colleagues' response with the ball, on a deadening pitch, was both impressive and heartening, particularly in view of his possible absence from the first Test in four days' time.

Moving gingerly, but not en-cased in the grimace of someone who has badly ricked their back, Cork admitted afterwards that "he felt a lot better," and that he was hoping the problem "would go away in a couple of days," and that his hack would "hopefully be all right for Friday."

Unusually for a bowler, Cork claims not to have had a soft tissue injury of the lower back before, and his optimism after the gloomy rumours that it might take six weeks to heal may just be the hravado of a disap- pace. man. Mind you, he h recovered miraculously hefore. and the fact that he is not seeking expert help suggests the injury is short term rather than

India 410-9 and 266-8 dec South Africa 321 and 228-8

An unheaten century from

Daryll Cullinan kept South

Africa alive long enough for the

weather to intervene and allow

them to escape with a draw in

the third and final Test against

Cullinan finished on 122 not

India in Johannesburg vesterday

out, scored off 194 balls and in-

cluding 15 fours and a six as

South Africa struggled to 228

for 8 in their second innings. He

and win the series 2-0.

Match drawn

the joys of reaching double bowling tools that saw him finfigures for the first time in New Zealand, appeared more guarded and refused to speculate over his thoroughbred's chances

of a quick recovery. I thought that Dominic bowled an exceptional new ball spell on the first day," Atherton said after the match. "He's a real asset with these Kookaburra balls, which seem to swing." Unfortunately for Atherton, it is a skill few of his other bowlers can impart with any frequency, and Cork's presence is vital if there is any swinging to be done. This meant that England had

to make Northern Districts hop to a far more direct tune, with the initial bars from Darren Gough and a final chorus de-livered by Alan Mulially, who finished the innings with 4 for 52. With little wind to hlow him off halance, Gough's opening spell was arguably his finest of the winter. Charging in from the City End, he uprooted Matthew Bell's off stump with the third ball of the day, leaving a stroke-less batsman standing trans-

fixed over an empty stump-hole. For seven overs Gough grunted and strained, never once sending down anything with less than maximum effort. His reward for such selfless effort was the prize wicket of the Test opener, Blair Pocock, leg before of the England captain should as he whipped across a straight one that clearly beat him for

had looked nothing like as assured as he had the previous

day, his discomfort a clear testament to the aggression and long, pare Googn manager to generate However, his captain, despite erate - complementary fast pace Gough managed to gen-

Cullinan denies India nan's match saving innings with Mike Atherton's 10-hour 185 not out on the same ground last year, which saved the second Test for England. "Daryll's knock was every hit as good as Mike's and I know exactly how Sachin [Tendulkar, India's captain must have felt because we were frustrated in the same way

against England." he said. India's Saurav Ganguly and

received invaluable support from the all-rounder Lance SOUTH AFRICA - First trainings 321 (5 M Pol-lock 79; J Simeth 5-104) Klusener, who scored 49 in an eighth-wicket partnership of 127. Cullinan's third Test century saved his team when they had looked to be heading for defeat after being set 350 to win.

South Africa collapsed to 76 for 5 before a violent rainstorm sent the teams back to the pavilion for three hours. When they re-emerged, the home side was quickly plunged to 95 for 7. But in a nail-hiting last hour Cullinan and Klusener did

enough to secure a draw. South Africa's captain, Han-

their substitute fielder. Pankai Dharmani, are to be charged with bringing the game into disrepute and intimidating the umpire. Peter Willey, during the match. Final day, India won 1059 NIDIA - First Innings 410 IR S Dravid 148, S Ganguly 731

9NDIA - Second limitings 286-8 dec IR S Drawd 81, S Ganguly 60. N R Monga 50: 9OUTH AFRICA - Second limitings

sie Cronje, compared Culli-

ish with impressive match fig-ures of 6 for 74. As Robert Croft was mildly

disappointing in his first bowl since Zimbabwe, it was a day for the fast men. When Gough was rested, there was little respite as Alan Mulially and then Craig White hit the pitch hard. But if Mullally was the more impressive - the sharp caught and bowled to end the plucky innings of Michael Parlane was particularly fine - it was Craig White who wreaked the most helmet damage, with no fewer than five clanging strikes coming from his deceptively quick and accurate bouncer.

In theory, White's pace is a handy weapon to have and it ought to give Atherton the option to play two spinners in the first Test. However, he is probably not quite reliable enough (nearly half the runs he conceded were the result of cut shots) to be the third seamer, which makes the twin spin option a risky one - particularly if Cork does not play.
Unlike the bowling, the bat-

ting line-up for the Test more or less picks itself picks itself although, with the home side scoring enough runs to make England hat again, it was inevitable that the faltering form again come under scrutiny.

In the event, Atherton was not cowed by a situation of tory and he played some forceful strokes, pulling and punching as if making his way out of a large paper hag - which is what doubt really amounts to, given its flimsy constructs and shortened perspectives.

However, his epic foray into double figures was not something Atherton wished to dwell upon. "The huild-up of team confidence overrides any individual needs," he said at the post-match press conference. "I'm delighted by the way we've started the New Zealand tour. Our priorities at the were to win these games comprehensively and we've won both in two and a half days." This is a fact not unconnected to him winning the toss on helpful pitches - two factors unlikely to be guaranteed when the show moves on to

Third day of four: England won toss NORTHERN DISTRICTS - Pirst Innings 69 ENGLAND - Pirst Innings 294 (G P Thorpe 7 ). J P Crawley 65: A R Taxt 5-96, S B Styns 4-110). RTHERN DISTRICTS - Second Innings ORTHERN DISTROCTS - Second Memogric 99 for 1)
3 A Pocock low b Gough ......
D Bailey c Thorpe b Mullally ....
E Porlane c & b Mullally ....
I N Hart c White b Mullally ....

A R G Hart to Write and A R G Hart to Write

A R Tast c Atherson b Whate

S B Styres b Mutally

D L Vennon c Crawley b Gough

D R Bernreit not out

Extrass (b3. b4. nb3.)

Total (91.4 overs)

M A Abreton not the
Extras left, rb11
Total (for 0, 8.1 overs)
Did not bate 1A | Stenert, N Hussam, G P Thorpe, J P Crowley, C White, R D 3 Croft, D G Cort. Bowling: Styrs 1-0-10-0; Bennett 4-1-17-0; Tart 3.1-1-11-0.

Umpires: DV Come and CV King

sorry for them. But at this time of year, night-time is the only chance we get to practise, because we work during the day." Welcome to the world of sled dog racing, the ultimate way to parade your pooch (though nobody would ever think of these slightly sinister-looking dogs with their killer eyes as pooches). In fact, racing is almost the only way to exercise a

pets," Evans, a founder mem-

ber of the Siberian Husky Club

■here is a leafy lane near

Northampton where

courting couples never

go. In almost every way, it

seems ideal: secluded, pic-

turesque and easy parking. Yet

lovers only use this romantic set-

Picture the scene: your arm

is round the one you love (or

would like to). That old devil

moon (the only light for miles

around) is casting its magic

spell. The moment is right. You

lean over and... out of the darkness, lights blazing, comes

a scene from Hell: a pack of

wolf-like dogs howling like

something from a Hammer film, hauling a man on a giant

tricycle who is screaming

few cars with the windows

stcamed up. They don't stay for

very long," admitted John Evans,

husky-racing enthusiast and one

of the perpetrators of this un-

usual contraception. "I feel a bit

Yes, we've disturbed quite a

strange words at them.

ting once.

of Great Britain, emphasises. "As a club, our higgest expense is the rescue service, taking them back from people who find they can't cope. These dogs don't reach their height of dastardliness for two years - and then it gets worse. Storics abound of huskies es-

caping and tearing pet cats and hamsters into hite-sized chunks. Scarcely the ideal companion, you would think. But five of the Evans' seven dogs sleep in their bedroom (most of them on the bed). "We'd get the other two in hut there just isn't room," Penny says. And this weekend at

Aviemore, the Winalot British Sled Dog Championships will attract more than 1,000 dogs, a remarkable figure considering that back in 1978 the first such gathering attracted just six teams to Guildford. This year, there are 53 sled dog races, using not just huskies hut samoyeds and malamutes. throughout the British Isles. It is a spectacular growth when vou consider that the Sports Council refuses to acknowl-

edge sled dog racing.
"They say the musher's input is not enough to be classified as a sport." Evans says. "That's ridiculous. There's a sight more input than Prince Philip has with his horses. I'd like to see someone from the Sports Council tryespecially in the dark." But even in daylight, mush-



Mushers the scourge of lovers

Bark at the moon: A sled dog enthusiast prepares his huskles in darkness for the British Championships at Guildford

KEITH ELLIOTT

ers can never relax and enjoy an exhilarating ride at speeds up to 20 mph, because of hazards like rabbits and deer. "If the dogs see a rabbit, they will turn immediately and chase it," Evans says. "You end up in a ditch and the dogs just carry on. Then you've got to run after the rig and hope the dogs don't go too far before they get tangled up. I haven't had any broken bones

Evans is a photographer, but with his large frame and huge black beard, he could easily pass for a professional musher. In fact, he has appeared in just that role in Frankenstein: The True Story, Goldeneye, Steven Spielberg's Cartoon Balto as well as Smirnoff and Tunes adven isements.

He discovered huskies when he went to London to buy a camera. He saw one at Euston station and was smitten by its face and its latent power. In-

husky, though he did not know that was what it was, "We thought we had a runt malamute, hecause there were no pictures of huskies in books. Then we heard about a Nordic dog show, went along and discovered what we had. The Siberian Husky Club

stead of a camera, he hought a

was formed, and inevitably. racing the dogs was soon part of its activities. Sled dog racing started in

Alaska at the turn of the century. Its most famous race is prohably the Iditarod, a 1,0001mile haul across hostile Alaskan terrain to commemorate a legendary dog run carrying diphtheria antitoxin to Nome from Anchorage. Nowadays such races are hig husiness, with professional mushers and prizes of \$1m (£600,000). In Britain, you win a trophy and dog food.

Alaskans have snow. Britain, generally, does not. The racers mainly use Forestry Commission land but at first, even this was difficult. "When we phoned up about the possibility of racing the dogs, they suggested we contact White City." Evans recalls

Without snow. British enthusiasts have adapted the American training sled. This is a giant version of a kiddy's tricycle, with dogs hitched to the front and the musher ostensibly steering from a platform at haughty looks, its widow's-peak the hack. Evans says: "We are probably the best in the world

chance to compete because of quarantine laws." The rig will take as many as 10 hut extra dogs are not always an advantage. On a winding track. manoeuvrability is more important, unless vou like close encounters of the tree kind. Huskies, which can travel at up

on our rigs, but we don't get the

to 25 mph, sleep outside at -40C and pull 15 times their own weight, are trained by being taught to pull a tyre, and progress to sleds. "Fitness is very important," Evans says, "Though our races are generally four to seven miles, we feed the dogs on greyhound food to give them speed, stamina and strength."

Particularly the latter. Mushers must fix restraining ropes to their rigs once the huskies are attached, or it means a long chase to retrieve them. Calling "Here, buy," doesn't work with these dogs. The only words they know are Haw (left), Gee (right) and, best of all, Hike (go) probably so named because that is what the unlucky musher has to do, often for miles.

Even in Aviemore this weekend, the dog teams expect to be racing on paths rather than the white stuff. "We pray for snow - and then we pray for ourselves," Penny said. Her husband agrees. You travel faster on snow. But though we have hrakes, they don't stop you. It's fine when you're going in a straight line, but when it comes to corners..."

a faces da

## **Pakistan win World Series Cup**

West Indies 103 Pakistan win by 62 runs

tho

The Pakistan captain, Wasim Akram, shrugged off an injury to spearhead a fast-bowling rout of West Indies in Melbourne yesterday to secure the World Series Cup.

Pakistan now take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the best-ofthree final. It is their first win In the triangular limited-overs tournament - they had beaten the West Indies by four wickets in the first final in Sydney on

Wasim said: "We told everyone when we arrived in Australia that we are the best team in the world. We have won the competition and we have got a young team that is very talented."

Not even a power failure that left the stadium in darkness for 24 minutes could distract Wasim and his team from their task. Despite a niggling hamstring strain, Wasim generated extreme pace, bounce and movement off the seam to dismiss the opener, Sherwin Campbell, and the middleorder pair of Shivnarine

in sweltering temperatures. "I pulled the hamstring in my second or third over and I was just about to come off when I

Chanderpaul and Carl Hooper

got two wickets in one over. At times, it was very painful." Wasim explained.

Shahid Nazir, drafted into the side to replace the leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, justified his selection by exploiting a lively pitch to finish with outstanding figures of 3 for 14 from 10 overs.

After losing seven wickets for the addition of 24 runs in Sydney, the West Indies were reduced to 42 for 7 when the vice-captain, Brian Lara, fell for 19. Ijaz Ahmed, the top scorer in Sydney, scored 45 when Pakistan replied, while Mohammad Wasim hit 41 in the closing

overs off 79 halls.

#### TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football 7.30 unless stated FA CUP THIRD ROUND Gillinghem v Derby (7.45) ..... Luten v Bolton (7.45) ...... Watford v Oxford Utd (7.45) ... THERD-ROUND REPLAY

COCA-COLA CUP QUARTER-FINAL Ipswich v Leicester (7.45) NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION Breatford v Bristot Rovers (7.45) Bury v Shrewsbury (7.45) THIRD DIVISION

THIRD DIVISION
Cambridge Utd v Exeter (7.45) ...
Leyton Orient v Wigan (7.45) ...
Mansfield v Doncaster (7.45) ... AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD NORTHERN SECTION SECOND ROUND Carlisic v Huli (7.45)... York v Preston (7.45)

SOUTHERN SECTION SECOND ROUND

nerat Section Second a borough v Walsall (7.45)... sea v Bristol City ......... **BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE** PREMIER DIVISION Motherwell v Kilmar Greenock Morton v St Mi

Ayr v Stranger Clyde v Brechin Dumberton v St

ENDLY MATCH: Rath Rovers v Bayern

FA UMBRO TROPHY First-round replays: Al-trincham v Gresley Rovers (7, 45); Dorchester v Slough (7, 45); Granthem v Byth (7, 45); Hale-sowen v Southport (7, 45); Haves v Yeovi. sowen v Soumpont (7.45); Hayes v Yeovil.

RA CARLSBERG VASE Fourth-round replays:
North Femby v Starnford (7.45); Whitstable v
Concord Rangers (7.45).

COLLEGE TRIPE 17.451.

ICIS LEAGUE Third Division: Flackwell Heath v Northwood. Guardian Insurance Cup third round: Brantine v Billercay 17.451.

INIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Barrow v Lancasser. First Division: Braddord Park Avenue v Farsley Cebc. Unifella First Division. Cup second-round replay: Great Harwood v Netherheid. Third round: Radciffe Borough v

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: SCREWAN DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Divisions
Barnstaple v Taunton (7.45).
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE President's Cup fourth round: Beloer v Malthy:
Hucknall v Denaby, League Cup third round
reptay: Pickening v Half Road Rangers. NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Di-vision: Biackpool Rovers v Burscough: Now-castle Town v Eastwood Hanley, League Cup second round: Mossley v Citheros. Floodiit

quool Rovers v Burscough; New Eastwood Hanley, League Cup Id: Mossley v Citheroe, Floodiit

WENSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Divisions Herne Bay v Greenwich Borough (7 45); Rama-gate v Thermesmead (7.45); Turbridge Wells v Crey Wanderers. JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Wimborne v Bourne INDIA TO.

INDIA TO SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division
Largney Sports v Halsham, Pagharn v Selecy, John
O'Hinra Leegue Cup second round; Octobod:

O'Hisra Leeger Cup second round; Ocisiond v Ringres.

LEAGUE OF Wall £5 CUP Quartier-finals first leg-Borry v Inter Cable-Tel Carliff; Llansantificad v Casmarfon (7.45); Newtown v Ton Pentre: Rind v Bangor City.

RISSH LEAGUE COCK-COLA FLOODLIT CUP First round first leg; Omegh v Portadown.

HARP LAGER MATIONAL LEAGUE OF BRELAND Premier Division: SI Patrick's Athletic v Shelbourne (7,45). 17.451.
POINTINS LEASUE Premier Division: Clickym v
Stoke (7.0) lat Scalybridge Cathol, Sheffeld Wed
v Everion 17.0). First Division: Asion Valla v Port
Vale (7.0) at Walsafe (2). Second Division: Gensby v Rotherham 17.0)
AVON INSURANCE COMENIATION FIRSt Division:
COMENIATION FIRST DIVISION.

Crystal Palace v Swansea (2.0) (at Plough Lane Milwall v Wimbledon (2.0). FA YOUTH CUP Third round: Covertry v Tra Third round replay: Blackburn v Bury. Rugby Union CLUB MATCH: RAF v Oxford University (2.0) (30 RAF Brice Norton).

Basketbal! 7-UP TROPHY Quarter-Gnot second leg: Chilets (90) v Thames Valley Tigers (85) (8 0) Other sports

#### Devils regain fire ice hockey

Cardiff Devils undid some of the damage of Saturday's setback at Sheffield Steelers, their main rivals for the inaugural Superleague crown, with the 11-2 home humiliation of Nottingham Panthers on Sunday.

Kip Nohle led the way with hat-trick as the Welsh side reopened a three-point lead at the top of the lable - although Steelers do have two games in hand.

Steve Moria Itwo), Ivan Matulik (two), Vezio Sacratini, Jason Stone, Ken Hodge and Doug McCarthy were also on the mark as Cardiff stylishly made up for their stumble in south Yorkshire with the biggest

home win in the league this season. The outcome was never in doubt as Cardiff led 6-0 by the time Jason Jennings got Panthers off the mark.

The sharp start was in stark contrast to Devils' slack opening in Sheffield, when they succumbed to a devastating first period from Sheffield, who estahlished a 4-0 lead in the first five minutes and stretched it to 6-1 at the first buzzer.

Cardiff shook off their slackness to win the next two periods 2-1 and 3-0, hut Alex Dampier's team held on for a crucial 7-6 win.

Nottingham Panthers beat Newcastle Cohras 4-3 on Saturday, with a rare double from the defender Graham Waghorn proving decisive.

حكنات الاجل

O @ O ●

**Burns sent to** 

stand for a year

assistant, Billy Stark, in control

The Hearts manager, Jim Jefferies, appeared before the

committee in person and left

with a £500 fine. The same fine

was handed out to the Airdrie

West Ham full-back, Ray Stew-

art, now the assistant manager

of Stirling Alhion, has been

banned from the touchline un-

Freeland, after Hearts lost the

4-3 at Celtie Park last Novem-

ber. Jefferies claimed Hearts

should have been awarded a foul

in the lead-up to a Paul Gas-coigne goal for Rangers, but nei-

ther Freeland nor referee Dallas

that day about a particular de-

cision and we let our feelings be

"We were pretty hyped up

signalled for the offence.

Coca-Cola Cup final to Rangers

Jefferies clashed with Dallas

til the end of the season.

manager, Alce MacDonald, while the former Scotland and

on the touchline.

## sport

# . We do lo this

mond or Sale – just in time, when as England's league player, in and Jason Robinson.

At the end of Rugh Special, the At the end of ranges special, these was transmitted a rousing render, by a male voice choir of the Rhondda in Welsh. In 50 teleptor and the waste waste with a rousing Wales, not only at Const. watching Wales, not only at Care watching waics, not only at Cache but until the early 1950s in Swahe as well. I have never heard the hope when the court is broaded. as wear, I have never means the hope sung in Welsh, always in English by the crowd at Cardul are unable sing it at all, "Why Oh Why, Debt, some some the height of their represents the height of their sep-rations. But at least the Welch secdecent jerseys once again Thos longer look like Christmas the



## of lovers

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> 5 .56  $v_{ij} = e^{i k T T^2}$ . . . . . .

100 mm. 100 mm

Is regain fire

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 $\log_2 2.77\%$ 

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Nicolae Marasescu, the head of the Romanian federation, said Negura failed an oot-ofcompetition test in Romania on 4 December. She tested positive stripped of the title.

pean Cross-Country Championships in Charleroi, Belgium, on 16 December. "An investigation is under way and for the moment she is not allowed to compete," Marasescu said. Under the rules of the In-

again after winning the Euro-

ternational Amateur Athletic Federation, an athlete faces an automatic four-year han if found guilty of using steroids. Negura, 29, finished eighth in the 10,000m final at the Atlanta Olympics. She won the world 15-km road title in 1990 and 1991. Sweden's Sara Wedlund. who finished second in Charleroi, would be declared the European champion if Negura is

#### **Due reward for Johnson**

Hockey

Bobby Crutchley and Kath Johnson, two players with totally different international fortunes during 1996, vesterday won their respective "Player of the Year" awards, writes Bill Colwill.

Johnson, the rugged Balsam Leicester defender who retired from the international scene in ring has continued in this sea-1995 after the birth of her first child, was persuaded to return to bolster Great Britain's de- 31 in 14 outings for the leadfence at the Atlanta Olympics, and played a key role in her team reaching the semi-finals.

Jobnson's penalty stroke - without him.

against the Dutch was easily saved, and Britain had to settle for fourth place.

The 26-year-old Crutchley, in spite of finishing as the leading scorer in the Australian, English and Italian leagues in the previous 12 months, was overlooked by Great Britain for Atlanta.

Crutchley's phenomenal scoson's National League, where he currently leads the way with ers, Cannock. Now it would be unthinkable for England to go to the Five Nations tournament Sadly, the fairy-tale ended in in Islamabad in March - to celthe bronze medal match when ebrate Pakistan's golden jubilee

players inside to the dressingrooms first and then have the presentation thereafter." Stewart has been banned and an assistant referee, Alan

clined to comment on the de- in the immediate aftermath of cision which will leave his the final. Hearts and their man-

> from the dug-out until next season after a row with officials during Stirling's 5-2 defeat at Falkirk. MacDonald was fined £500 for "using foul language" to an assistant referee after Airdrie's match at St Mirren. Raith Rovers have cut prices for tonight's friendly with Jürgen Klinsmann's Bayern Munich, which is being staged to mark the redevelopment of

Stark's Park. Raith have now

made the game pay-at-the-gate with those who have bought tick-

ets priced £15 and £8 to receive

agement were kept waiting on

the pitch until a rostrum was as

sembled at Celtic Park for the trophy presentation to Rangers.

It was during this break that Jef-

feries had to be restrained by

colleagues from taking his griev-ances with the officials further.

"I think there might be lessons to be learned," Jefferies

said. "It might be wiser to take



مكنا من الاعل

One on one: Cesare Maldini, the new Italy coach, talks tactics at a press conference

#### manager, whose previous fine hut was in agreement that record always left him liable to a change is possibly required to £3 and £2 rebates on entry. Bergkamp fears unwanted break

Dennis Bergkamp yesterday began almost a month in the Glenn Moore finds Arsenal's Dutch craftsman happy with shadows, wondering whether a sporting life in England despite his impending suspension moment's madness would put

lier this season, but was cut on appeal to £2,000. The Celtic Jefferies said. He accepted his

an end to the best form of his Arsenal career. Bergkamp, who has scored breathtaking goals in each of Arsenal's last two matches, is suspended for their next three. It is his punishment for being sent off for a rash tackle on Sunderland's Paul Bracewell on 11 January. With FA Cup replays and England's match with Italy complicating the schedule,

Football

£2,000 fine.

WESLEY KETTLE

Tommy Burns, the Celtic man-

ager, has been banned from the

touchline for a year by the Scottish Football Association,

and has also heen hit with a

Burns has his case considered

in his absence yesterday in

Glasgow by a disciplinary com-

mittee meeting, which ruled

on a touchline temper tantrum

during an Old Firm defeat at Celtic Park last November.

Burns had raced along the

pitch in pursuit of an assistant

referee, Eric Martindale, before

being restrained. He was later

sent to the stand by the refer-

ce, Hugh Dallas. Yesterday the

SFA considered the case with-

out making public its decision.

but sources confirmed that

Burns will now have to sit in the

Burns was also fined £2,000

to add to a previous fine of

£3,000 which was imposed car-

lier this season, but was cut on

stand for the next 12 months.

uotil 15 February. "It was a silly foul but I was surprised to be sent off," be said somewhat ruefully yesterday.

"It was my first tackle.

Suggestions by the Labour Par-

ty that standing terraces could

returo to major British football

demned as a "cheap gimmick to get votes" by families bereaved

by the Hillsborough disaster.

Tom Pendry, the shadow sports minister, says Labour is

prepared to listen to arguments

in favour of re-opening standing

areas that were closed in major

grounds at the recommendation

of Lord Justice Taylor following

the 1989 tragedy at Sheffield

Wednesday's stadium, when 95

JON CULLEY

match with Ajax after, I was sent to the team, it is easier for me did with Ajax or Inter." off for two handballs in the to find them and them to find Given a month w

"I will try something in train-ing but it is difficult. It is not the same as playing matches. You saw with lan Wright lagainst Everton) on Sunday, be trained hard but when he came on he lasted only half a match. It will be difficult to be in the same form when I come back.

it means he will not play again "It is a pity because this is the best form I have been in since I was at Ajax," Bergkamp, who has scored seven times for Arsenal this season, added: "I still feel 1 can do better, I should The suspension could be a .score more goals with the problem. Apart from injury I · chances I have bad. There is · they are strikers who keep run-

Cup semi-final.

Pendry is endorsing an elec-

tronic crowd monitoring system

developed by an engineering

firm in Warrington which, it is

welcomed by football support-

ers' groups, who say many fans would still prefer to stand at

matches despite the massive up-grading of facilities that fol-

But the FA Carling Premier-

ship and the Football League

yesterday expressed doubts that

clubs in the Premiership and the

Nationwide League First Divi-

sion would be prepared to re-in-

lowed the Taylor Report.

me. English football is more difficult than it looks. When you see it on television you think it must be easy because there is so much space but, when you play in it, it is very tough to keep

"That makes it more difficult than in Italy. People here expect forwards to do other things, not just wait up front for the chance, for the moment. They want you to work for the

up with the pace.

"But I would think that players like Vialli and Ravanelli would do well here because bave never been out for so long. more to come from me, ning, Maybe they have found before. I have only been susThis season has been better the pace hard, it is why I have pended once before, for one for me because I have got used suffered more injuries than I

crush on the terraces at an FA Football Association spokes- tain spectators out of the game.

man, Steve Double, said: "Clubs

would see going back to terraces

Trevor Hicks, the chairman of

port Group, who lost two at Hillsborough, Heysel and daughters at Hillsborough, at-Bradford to make sure that safe-

phere generated by the packed borough hut too late for consid-

charges for seats were pricing cer- No football club approached

as something involving a lot

the Hillsborough Families' Sup-

tacked the move as a "retro-grade and potentially dangerous

step for which there is no sen-

sible argument in support. One

could be churlish and say it is

a cheap gimmick to get votes."

great feeling among fans that all-seat stadiums lack the atmos-

terraces of old and that high

Pendry said that there was a

more expense.

easier in Holland.

following his first training session in Rome vesterday

Given a month without matches, many foreign players would be tempted to bead home, but Bergkamp and his family are staying in their leafy home just north of the capital

in M25 country.
"I have no wish to go to Holland," be said. "I feel OK here. It is better to stay with the team and keep together, especially when we are going well.

"It is hard to say if we can win the championship. We have just had a good game [Sunday's 3-1 win over Everton so everybody is feeling positive. The championship is the highest achievement you can win, it is over a season - cups you can lose through one bad game." Bergkamp, who won league

"No one is advocating going

back to standing areas all across

the ground," be said. "But foot-

ball supporters are saying that

there should be a healthy mix.

We owe it to the people who died

ty is paramount, but nuclear sci-

entists in Warrington have

developed these safe standing ar-

formerly the National Nuclear

Corporation but now a private

engineering consultancy, devised

the system in the wake of Hills-

eration by Lord Justice Taylor.

A research team at NNC,

eas and we have to look at it."

titles with Ajax but not Internazionale, added: "The English championship is right up there with the Italian one, It is "Liverpool and Manchester

United are our strongest challengers. They have to come here, all the top teams have to, That could be a problem for them. We have to win those games and make Highbury a place that other teams are scared to play at."

Bergkamp collected his third man of the match award on Sunday and Arsène Wenger, the Arenal manager, noted wryly: "Every time be comes in the dressing-room, he has a bottle of champagne with him. He has enough to open a shop."

The Dutchman may be better advised to keep the champagne bottles on ice. They may come in handy at the end of the

crowd safety in Trafalgar Square

computer screen which would

man of the Football Supporters'

Association and now a football

researcher at Liverpool Uni-

versity, welcomed Pendry's

move. "Fans really miss the

terraces," he said. "Going to see

Liverpool is not the same as it

reaching dangerous levels.

on New Year's Eve.

#### Mixed reception for Labour terrace talk being called off. Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "We want to do what we can to avoid fans about the system has taken it up, but a version was used to aid baving long, expensive and wasted journeys."

FA to combat last-minute

cancellations

The Football Association has

stepped in to avoid a repetition

of the furore caused by last

The FA Competitions secre-

all the clubs left in the competition, advising them of new guidelines designed to prevent

fans making pointless journeys. Clark has ordered the home

clubs to ensure the match offi-

cial - or an FA appointed ref-

the likely departure time of vis-

should also take place the day

before the game if it is felt that

and advise the FA and the me-

not be allowed into grounds if there is any chance of the game

the match is in doubt.

week's last-minute cancella-

tions in the FA Cup.

Leeds United's new owners are attempting to purchase El-The system works by installing land Road from the city counpressure sensors at strategic cil. The local authority bought the ground in 1985 for £2.5m, points, such as crush barriers and exit gates. These are linked to a hut now Caspian is ready to pay double that amount to buy it warn if crowd pressure was back. However, the council values the ground at around Rogan Taylor, a former chair-£20m.

Stoke City's new £15m ground, to be opened in August, will be named the Britannia Stadium after a 10-year sponsorship deal with the Britannia Building Society worth £1.3m. The main road leading to the site will he called Stanley Leading article, page 11 Matthews Way.

## Larder looks to former club

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Phil Larder, the Sheffield Eagles coach, got his men within min-utes of yesterday's Challenge Cup deadline, when he signed Martin Wood and Nick Pinkney from his former club, Keighley. Sheffield have had to part

with £95,000 plus the veteran

full back Mark Gamson, one of

the first players the club signed when it was set up in 1984. Larder failed to land his other target, Widnes' utility, forward, Steve McCurrie, but says

he is still interested in him despite missing the deadline. Warrington have moved to counter their pre-season prop crisis by signing the Leeds for-ward George Mann on loan un-til the end of June. The club

suffered a triple blow in the friendly against Salford on Sunday when they lost one front-rower. Mark Hilton, with serious shoulder damage and two others, Gary Chambers and Dallas Mead, with leg injuries. Hilton will need an operation and could miss the whole of the Super League season, while Mead and Chambers will be out for at least two weeks, raising the fear that they could miss the

start of Warrington's Challenge Cup campaign.

Having tried and failed to resign their former player Steve Molloy from Featherstone. Warrington switched their attention to the experienced New Zealand Test forward, who was not offered new terms at Head-

ingley for this season. The other major signing on a deadline day now oddly stranded in the middle of the close season saw Wigan finally able to register the Auckland Warriors back-rower. Stuart Lester. Lester had been refused a work permit, but that difficulty has

now been overcome. Jon Hamer, who played for the Bradford Bulls in last year's Challenge Cup final, has completed his move to Second Di-

vision York.

Tommy Martyn has become St Helens' latest representative in the Great Britain squad for the World Nines in Townsville at the end of this month. The original selection, limited to one player per club, was Keiron Cunningham, who pulled out with a recurrence of a knee injury. Now Bobbie Goulding - in dispute with St Helens over an improved deal - has withdrawn, afier originally agreeing to be Cunningham's replacement.

#### **Palmer leaves BOA** to aid Academy bid

**Olympic Games** 

Dick Palmer is to relinquish his position as general secretary of the British Olympic Association after 20 years to concentrate on tary, Steve Clark, has written to the BOA's bid to establish a

British Academy of Sport.
"The Academy of Sport is so important to the BOA," he said. "It epitomises what we are all about. Our role in the project is critical. I am devoting myself fulltime to develop that input."

erec - inspects the pitch before The BOA are one of three groups involved in one of the 13 iting fans. Pitch inspections sites, the former United States Air Base at Upper Heyford, near Oxford, that have been shortlisted for the academy. Clubs are also being ordered They face strong opposition from other bidders, including to monitor pitch conditions ones in the East Midlands. dia of inspections if they are necessary, while faus should Sheffield, Bath, Manchester and Birmingham.

Meetings to assess the bids

February and the Sports Council is expected to announce the successful bid in mid-March.

"The aim of the academy is to improve sport across the board and to help our athletes perform better on the international scene." Palmer said. The BOA chairman, Craig

Reedie, called the proposal to establish an academy the most exciting and significant devel-opment in British sport for many years". He said: "It will enable our sportsmen and women to compele on equal terms with the best in the world.

He said of Palmer: "His reputation in this country and in the Olympic movement world-wide is unparalleled." Palmer, a member of the In-

ternational Olympic Committee Commission for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, will be succeeded by his deputy, Simon Clegg, as the acting genare to be held between 3 and 11 eral secretary of the BOA.

### **Arrowsmith on target**

Figure skating

Britain's Jenna Arrowsmith finished 13th in her qualifying group in the EuropeanChampionships in Paris yesterday. good enough to win her a place in Friday's short programme. Arrowsmith, 16, was skating in Group A. won by Maria Butyrskaya of Russia. The Ukrainian, Elena Liashenko, led the

second group of skaters. Surya Bonaly, France's five times European champion who is competing in her first major competition since suffering an

Achilles injury doing acrobatics

in May, struggled to qualify in sixth place in Group B.

Bonaly won a place in the French team at the last minute after appealing against her fed-eration's decision to drop her on the grounds that she was not fit. 'I think I can be better when

it is more serious," Bonaly said. "I was a hit scared and it was stupid to be scared for this because it was just a qualification. But it was difficult for me to be in good shape for this one. Right now my confidence is only about 60 per cent."

She completed only three triples in her routine, two toe loops and a salchow.

#### Negura faces drugs ban

spectators died as a result of a troduce standing areas, and a

grounds bas been dismissed as claimed, makes standing ter-

impractical by top clubs and con-races safe. The move has been

Romania's Iulia Negura could be stripped of her European women's cross-country title and hanned for four years after testing positive for steroids.
The Romanian athletics fed-

eration said yesterday that Negura failed two doping control tests last month, both times for the steroid stanozolol - the same drug which led to the Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson being thrown out of the 1988 Olympic Games.

#### American Football

Dan Reeves has taken over as the coach and head of football operations of the Atlanta Falcons on a five-year contract. Reeves, 55, who was dismissed by the New York Glants at the end of the season, succeeds tune lones.

Baskethall

MBJL Orlando 99 Mism 27: Houston 102 Chac-go 86: Indiana 11.1 Philadelphia 107: Vancou-ver 100 Torrun 92; Cleveland 107 LA Cippers 102 rot; Portland 102 Urch 96. BILDWEISER (EABUE: Chester Jets 82 Newcastia Eagles: 75. CLASSIC COLA MATHONAL CUP: Mes's Smelt Lon-don Leopards 67 Sheffield Strafe: 79. Women's fleet: Sheffield Hatters 80 Rhondds 52. Mes's Tropby Final: Oxford 77 Plymouth 80.

SAGA WORLD INDOOR CHAMPIONESHEPS (Pre-ston) Pairs first round: A Welch (Guernsey and D Le Merquend L'ersey) by J Rebhin (str) and N Burkett (SA) 5-7 7-5 7-8 7-3; S Rees and J Price (Wah Iz T Tong Link) and S Wejch (Coni 2-7 7-4 7-) 7-2; M King and T Allocok (Grig Iz N Sche-chka and R Bressey (A2) 4-7 7-0 2-7 7-1 7-3; I Taylor and S Glasson (Nas) by W Re-bads (Eng) and M McMehon (Aus) 7-5 6-7 7-5 7-4.

Boxing
The Birmingham boxer, Carlos Christie replaces Joe Calzaghe's scheduled opponent, Jose Bayon, for tonight's non-title super-middleweight bout in Bristol after the Spanlard missed his flight.

Cricket Sussex have signed the leg-spinner Amer Khan, 27, who was released by Mid-

TODAY'S

NUMBER 9

The number of Edinburgh Academicals players in the Scotland women's rugby union team to play England in the Home Nations' Champlonship at Blackheath, London, on Sunday.

### SPORTING DIGEST

diesex at his own request at the end of last season. The county have also of-fered terms to the former Hampshire and Middlesex, pace bowler Martin Thursfield, 25.

SUPERSPORT SERIES (Final day of four; East Landon: Bowler 331 and 201 for 4 dec IM Bouch to 68no. B M White 54; Boland 271 for 1KC lack-son 90no. L D Ferrers 531. Match densm.

Kiddeminister Hamers v Ernley: Salabury CRy V Stough Town or Docthester Town: St. Locaratis Standardly 6 February).

SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS: US Cup (Pessadens, Castly Dennas's 2 (5 Andersen B. Colding B1) Poru 1 Solano Todos S1): United States 0 Mesco 2 (Anes 3, Garcia Aspe BB. Italian Lenguer: Leco D Juvernus 2 (Padocano 31, G3). Spenish Lenguer e Gall Bart States 1 (1): Solano Todos S1; United States 0 Mesco 2 (Anes 3, Garcia Aspe BB. Italian Lenguer: Leco D Juvernus 2 (Padocano 31, G3). Spenish Lenguer Gall Bart S (Jamr 30, Sep og 33) Bercelona 4 (Lus Ennius 45, 65, 78, Ronaldo 72).

Golf

71 14 73, 221 Cherce (Gall 73 /4 /4, 22) PWingt (GB) 76 75 74.
SENIORS 1997 TOUR SCHEDULE: May: 9-13: Belo Turksh Seniors Open (Antaye). 15-12: Ires Seniors Open (St Margarets, Dublin). Juma: 6-8: Jersey Seniors Open (La Maye), 13-13: De Vere Seniors Open (Steps), 13-13: De Vere Seniors Open (Casses (Collegiree Paris, Normanna; 28-26: Seniors Classic (Collegiree Paris, Normanna; 28-26: Seniors Clostingiree Paris, Normanna; 28-26: Seniors Clostingiree Paris, Normanna; 28-26: Seniors Geniors (Huddersteld). 13-13: Senior Geniors Open (Roselli, 13-13: Senior Geniors Open (Roselli, 13-13: Senior Geniors Open (Bas Seniors Open (Bas Seniors Open (Bas Seniors Open (Bas Seniors Open (Neumanna), 13-14: Castle Royle Seniors Open (Neumanna), 13-21: Castle Royle Seniors Open (Marianna), 1

once was."

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RM PREMIER LEAGUE: Castereagn 5 File avield 5 Pastey 6: Whitey 11 Blackburn 5.

ICC SKRTING
EIROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Bergy, Paris)
Western's qualifying (top 15 from each group
quality for main evenic; Bross One: 1 E
Lesternon (libr) 1.D Sactioned placement; 2 E-M
Frze (Cer) 2.C, "Y Vorobeen (Pol) 3.C, 4 (Lesternon)
170 B.C, "Y A Rechmo (Pol) 7.C, 2 C, Savel Scrow
171 B.C, "Y A Rechmo (Pol) 7.C, 2 C, Savel Scrow
171 B.C, "Y A Rechmo (Pol) 7.C, "B Z, Savel Gold
171 M Vorpe; (Strovel) 1.C, "E Z, "Savel B.C,"
1.1 M Vorpe; (Strovel) 1.C, "E Z, "Paurous (B-C)
1.1 M Vorpe; (Strovel) 1.C, "E Z, "Paurous (B-C)
1.1 M Vorpe; (Strovel) 1.C, "E Z, "Paurous (B-C)
1.2 M Savel (B-C)
1.3 M Savel (B-C)
1.3 M Savel (B-C)
1.4 D Mario
1.5 M Savel (B-C)
1.7 C M Lavel
1.5 M Savel
1.6 M Savel
1.7 C M Lavel
1.6 M Savel
1.7 C M Lavel
1.7 C

Rallying
MONTE CARLO RALLY (after six timed stages):
1 C Sainz (Sp) Fore Escort the 37mm 95ec; 2 T
Makinen from Missubsit lancer 1-37:12: 3 P Latto ftty Subset impress 1-37:33; 4 = C McSac (SB) Subset impress 1-23:733; 4 = C McSac (SB) Subset impress 7 Lots (Bot Toyota Celesa 1:39:21: 6 A Schwidz (Gen Ford Escort 1:30:56): 7 D Aunot (Pr) Fort Escort 1:40:53; 8 U Numel (Ger) Missubsit Lancer 1:40:51; 9 O Depoing (Ger) Fort Escort 1:40:52; 10 D Burn (Swit) Subsetu Impress 1:45:13.

#### DR MARTENS EUROPEAN LEAGUE (Diamond Centre, inthingtorrough): Group B: J Higgers (Sco) drew with R O'Suthuan (Eng) 4-4; S Hendry (Sco)

SEIEEO

SEIEEO

SEN YEAR CENAND TOURNAMENT (Tologo) Winth
day of 15: Mesugesto levon 5, lost 41 by Dejma
(7-2); Yameto 14-51 bt Notoenaturia 15-43; Caryu
(5-41 bt Notoepp) 14-57; Shabshime 16-31 bt Dehatho (5-4); Konzela (5-4) bt Minscoll
(4-5) bt Konzela (5-4) bt Minscoll
(4-5) bt Konzy (4-5); Rike (6-3) bt Asnoch
(4-5); Ageyerne 14-51 bt Death (5-4); Notoenatur
(6-3) bt Tochcasume (5-3); Hamanoshma (4-5) bt
Ogmania (2-7); Notaenatur
(4-5); Hansoll
(4-5); Minscoll
(4-5); Minscoll
(3-6); Tologoul
(3-6);

MUSTRALIAN OPEN (Melbourne) Mon's singles fourth round: P SAMPRAS (US) bt D Hybry (So-yea) 67 63 64 3-6 6-4; G MANRSEVIC (Crost) bt C Rund (Not) 4-6 6-2 6-7 6-3; 6-3; A COSTA (Sp) bt W PERREAR (SA) 6-3 6-2 3-2 eroce! T M

SWITTHINING
SPEEDO BRITISH GRAND PRIX (Swansen):
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29:77: 2 R Necholes (Swansen):
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Iden's doubles third round: 5 LAREAU (Can) and 4 O'BRIEN (US) by T Kempers and T Nussen (Nath) 6-3 6-0; R LEACH and 5 STARN, US) of J BUORN-MAN and N MILTI (Swe) 6-3 6-7 6-1. MAN and N NUT! (Swe) 6-3 6-7 6-1.

Whomen's surgies fourth round: 1 SPRLEA
(Romi bt h NA8SLIDDVA (Starahi 6-4 6-4; D. co.
Roost (Beil bt C Rußin 1US) 7-5 6-2; M 1FEA
(ANDEZ (US) bt P Schrigher (Swi) 4-6 6-4 6-1;
M HINGES (Swi) bt R Dragome (Romi 7-6 6-1.

M HINGES (Swi) bt R Dragome (Romi 7-6 6-1.) en nevasa cown of K Uragome Room 7-6-6-1.

Women's doubles third round: C MAPTINEZ (Spi and P TARABINI Urg; bt K Habsudova and R Zilluskova (Slovas) 6-3-6-4; N ARENOT (US) and M BOLLEGAR (Neth) to A Huber and B Rittner (Ger) 6-2-6-4.

IGeri 6-2 6-4. Mitted deutstein septemd round: L. McNeil and B. MacPrise (US) for Germander (US) for Germander (US) for Germander (US) for A Forent (Aug. 6-4 6-3); LENNAFOND and P. CALL BRANTH (US) for H. A. Gade (Aug.) and P. Normal (SA) 6-1, 6-0; A. Noumhara (Rust) and P. Normal (SA) 6-1, 6-0; A. Noumhara (Rust) and M. Normales (Banerin to H. Po and J. Maree (US) 6-7 6-4, 6-5; L. Nostant (Lau) and J. de Jager (SA) for H. SIMOVA (and G. SUN) (C. Regis 6-3 7-45; N. Mechadevis (UK) and J. Etneyh (Norm) for J. Capnati (US) and P. Cash (Aus) 6-3 6-2.

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Hill into the

**England fray** 

cedures in the new professional game removed some of the

shine from Rowell's an-

nouncement of a new-look side.

However, Charles Levison, the senior Wasps committee

man who has negotiated on be-

half of Epruc in recent months,

said yesterday that the Domes-

day scenario was extremely re-

mote. "Nothing is being threatened," he insisted. "We

were concerned that the docu-

mentation we received at the be-

ginning of the month did not

**England team** 

M Regan

附加....

is Woodward

Replacements: J Gur HBathI, A Healey (Lo (Leicester), P Gree B Clarke (Richmond)

worked together with the Eng-land Under-21 side last season

and are still heavily involved in

Jonah Lomu is returning to

England next month in an

Joell Vidiri and Test No 8 Zinzan Brooke are also on the

tour, which starts against Bris-

tol at the Memorial Ground on

13 February (kick-off 7.30pm).

internationals

AUCKLAND BLUES SOLAD: A Coch

Vidin, J. Lomu, B. Lima, E. Clarke, L. Stensness, C. Spencer, G. Laupepe, T. Marsh, M. Scott, J. Yomu'u, O. Brown, P. Thompson, C. Dowd, S. Fitz-patinck, M. Jones, A. Blowers, M. Carter, D. Mika, Z. Brooke, R. Brode, R. Fromont, C. Richelmann, L. Lafalaffi, A. Roose,

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

The Blues will also play Har-

the national set-up.



Th

tracti will Princ both take land ther

This n not on land, t them: came get mt first: b bial sl dock. pions Wale:

Rugby Union

rugby politics hung heavily over the Five Nations' Champi-

onship once again yesterday.

Rank and file supporters are be-

ginning to suspect that it might

he easier to sort out the future

of Hebron than solve the te-

dious conflict between Twick-

enham and its insubordinate

For Richard Hill of Saracens

however, it was a red letter day

all the same. The 23-year-old

open-side flanker from Surrey

will win his first cap for England against the Scots in the Calcutta

He first announced his rich

potential as a pupil at Bishop Wordsworth's School in Salis-

hury and if his emergence puts to an end the frustrating search

for a long-term successor to the

great Peter Winterbottom, we can expect to see Jack Rowell.

the national coach, sinking to his

knees in the middle of Cathe-

dral Close and reciting a prayer

high and low for a fast, muscu-

lar and physically imposing breakaway since "Winters" packed it in almost four years

ago and, at 6ft 2in and very near-

ly 16st. Hill has the right di-

mensions. Whether he has the

mental hardness to survive at

Test level, only time will tell. At

least he has the opportunity to

Bath, the Courage league

champions, are not letting the

grass grow under their feet as

they seek to replace Brian Ash-

ton, the respected coach who

quit the Recreation Ground

signed his post at London Irish

shortly before Christmas, is

their top target. Woodward,

the early 1980s and a Lion in

both 1980 and 1983, watched

the West Countrymen put 50

points past Northampton on

Sunday and had talks with se-

nior club officials. Bath sources

were hopeful of his agreeing

If Woodward, who has thriv-

ing business interests, decided

No. 3201, Tuesday 21 January

terms this week.

Clive Woodward, who re-

earlier this month.

England have been hunting

of thanksgiving.

up match on Saturday week.

CHRIS HEWETT

**Bath's No 1 target** CHRIS HEWETT

to commit himself to what would certainly he a high-pressure role, he would strengthen his ties with Andy Robinson, the Bath flanker who took over as chief coach following Ashton's

> 24 Joining English hird in New York, a definite item

lots? (8) Calm observed surround-27 Flow from anchorage into

Awful dump that is a source of childish amuse-Make oneself comfortable in unusual lets in north-

served by church (6) Socialist or a right-winger? ically here (10)

find out. In theory, that is. Re-ports that the hig white chiefs reflect what had been agreed between the two sides in Defrom Eprue, the umbrella orcember, but we had a con-The long shadow of domestic the top two divisions of the misation representing clubs in structive meeting with the Rugby Football Union last Courage League, were renewing their threat to withhold players from international duty in the absence of a final agreement on decision-making pro-

Rugby Football Union last
Thursday and we expect to iron
everything out this week."
Rugby's version of the hush
telegraph had suggested that the
only way Will Carling would
face the Scots would be if every
other half-decent centre in the
country was ordered by his chib country was ordered by his club to stay at home. As usual, the reports of Carling's demise were seriously premature; for the fourth time this season, Rowell has preferred his former captain to his former protégé, Jeremy Guscott - a decision that will be greeted with bemusement well beyond the narrow confines of Bath, where Guscott

was canonised years ago.

Carling will play at outside centre – a position in which his suspect passing will be less ex-posed - with Phil de Glanville returning, as captain, along-side him. Rowell admitted that de Glanville's position had been as much under revision as everyone else's in the aftermath of last month's shamhles against Argentina, hut said he was reassured by reports from the Recreation Ground, where Bath put 50 points on Northampton on Sunday. Two other Bath backs were not

so fortunate; as expected, Mike Catt's mahility to do the simple things anywhere near as well as he does the difficult ones means a recall for the goalkicking Paul Grayson - "Mike will develop. possibly as a centre," Rowell said - while Adedayo Adebayo, fit again after concussion, has failed to shift Tony Underwood from the left wing berth.

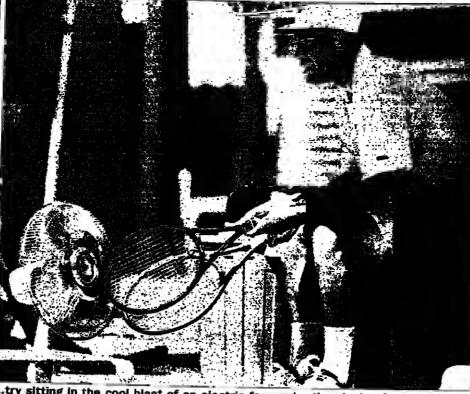
Other changes Stimpson return at full-back departure. The two men one of the easiest decisions confronting the selectors - and two positional switches in the back row. Lawrence Dallaglio shifts to his club position of blind-side to make room for Hill, with Tim Rodber elbowing aside Chris Sheasby at No 8.

Auckland Blues squad chosen for a small tour of Europe as However, perhaps the most part of their preparations for the defence of their Super-12 title. significant selection was huried among the replacements, where The All Black captain, Sean Austin Healey was named as re-serve scrum-half. More talkative Fitzpatrick, the stand-off sensation Carlos Spencer, Fijian flithan Clive Anderson and marginally quicker than Linford Christie the outstanding Leices-ter prospect finds himself promoted above Kyran Bracken, who, in lurn, had been expected to replace Andy Gomarsall

lequins (18 Fehruary) and in the starting line-up. Bracken is now out in the Toulouse (23). The touring side will comprise 13 All Blacks, cold - or, at least, in the chilly three former Test players and surroundings of the England A Fijian and Western Samoan team, who face the Scottish second-string at Harlequins a week on Friday. It is a sure sign of changing times; Healey, still a wing a couple of seasons hack. may well be in the full England side by the end of the champi-

NUMERANE STAR S 1 1 C SHEGH SEMBEDGE

# Rowel sends When the heat is on...



...try sitting in the cool blaat of an electric fan, under the shade of an umbrella..





alternatively, splashing cold water over your head may help. If all fails, slump in a shaded spot and attempt to ignore your 'on fire' feet. Pete Sampras tried the lot in Melbourne yesterday as temperatures rose past 50C Photographs: Allsport/Reuter/AP

## ... or you could try a lettuce leaf under your hat

These are hardly salad days for the likes of Steffi Graff and Pete Sampras, who have both found the stifling heat of Melbourne heavy going. But advice to tackle the oppressive on-court temperatures is being offered by the Australian cyclist Alan Iacuone. When the heat is on, he puts a lettuce leaf on his head.

On the day that Sampras sweltered through five sets at the Australian Open, Iacuone completed victory in a five-day race and then revealed the secret of his success.

Munching a salad hefore the concluding hour-long stage, lacuone decided to put the leituce under his helmet. Its high

water content it would keep his head cooler, he reasoned after getting the idea from his Span-

ish team-mates. Such Spanish practices would not defeat the other heat victim yesterday: the floodlights, which went out for over half an hour in the match between Thomas

### Muster and Jim Courier. Dalglish brings Raul to Britain

Football ALAN NIXON

castle United vesterday, acquiring the Portuguese defender Raul and considering Sunderland's £2.5m offer for Lee Clark.

is out of contract at Farense, on a free transfer. "There have been problems at Farense where I have not

The new Newcastle manager, however, has a difficult task deciding Lee's fate after Sunderland met the asking price for the transfer-listed midfielder.

The home-grown Clark is still on the transfer list because

@ @ ⊙ ●

he wants regular first-team

the Rovers caretaker manager. Tony Parkes, last week. But Blackburn are stalling on the deal and now want to take Citko on loan first.

against England in the World Cup, has rejected that idea and

Chelsea minds at rest by pledging his future to the club. am not at all thinking of

main... scated. As the Chinese proverh says Seated on the hanks of the river, waiting for things to change"."

The smile returned to Vialli's face on Saturday - even though he was on the substitutes' hench - when Dennis Wise scored against Derhy County then unveiled a T-shirt which read "Cheer up, Luca, we love you".

The Norwich winger Darren Eadie has signed an extension to his contract which will keep him at Carrow Road until 1999. Norwich have also signed the Everton defender Neil Moore on a short-term contract. The 24-year-old Liverpudlian had heen on loan at the First Division club.

# Sampras fears for his health

Tennis

DERRICK WHYTE reports from Melboume

Surviving in this Australian Open is no longer just about staying in the competition, it is about staying alive. The searing heat of 50C (122F) has placed a fearsome burden on the players still standing at the quarter-final stage and both competitors and health officials have questioned the wisdom of continuing in such conditions.

Pete Sampras said he was "on fire" during his five-set slog to victory over the Slovak Dominik Hrbaty, but on this occasion it was not his talent that was making sparks fly.

The No 1 seed fears that officials will take action only once someone has become seriously ill. "I think there's going to have to come a point where someone really gets hurt out there to make some sort of rule change," Sampras said after almost losing to the 19-year-old Hrbaty, ranked 76th in the world, in a match lasting nearly three hours.

The unwanted distinction of hecoming the player to force that rule change nearly fell to an 18-year-old Briton, James Trotman, whose beart started to "go berserk" during his win in the first round of the boys' event. "I felt terrible after the first set," Trotman said, "The trainer tested my heart beat and it was going berserk."

Like desert explorers the players found that the greatest risks came if they gave up and sank to the ground.

Goran Ivanisevic fell to his knees after winning beating Norway's Christian Ruud in another three-hour battle and then realised it was not a good idea. "That was a mistake. I was almost burned, but I was so tired I had to fall down," he said. "You cannot try the whole

game, otherwise you die: after 10 minutes you're dead. I didn't feel too much in my legs. I was out of it. I didn't know where I

On Sunday, the Belgian 16th seed. Sabine Appelmans, had to be placed on an intravenous I just felt so different because drip, while a defeated Steffi it is a hig Grand Slam tourna-Graf was treated for heat ex-

Gerald Segal, of the Aus-Iralian Medical Association,

said: "It could be just a matter of time before someone dies out

Under the rules of women's tennis, play can be detayed in extreme conditions. But an appeal by players to postpone their matches yesterday was overruled by the committee which runs the Grand Slam tournaments, saying it was un-fair on those who had played the previous day.

The match between the Ro-

manian eighth seed, Irina Spirlea, and the ninth seed, Karina Habsudova of Slovakia, was delayed by 30 minutes while officials reviewed their request. "We were just asking if it's possible to play tomorrow.

pirlea said after winning 6-4. In men's tennis there are no rules governing extreme heat. Cooling fans were placed beside the courts yesterday and play-ers draped ice-packed towels over their shoulders at the change of ends in an attempt to

cool down. "It was so hot today, it was a joke." Sampras said after eventually winning 6-7, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, "My feet were on fire and we were both feeling it." On his victory, Sampras said:

There's an old saying, it's better to be lucky than good, and I definitely had a lot more luck han good today." The fifth seed. Thomas

Muster, overcame a series of injuries and a brief floodlight failure to beat the 11th seed, Jim Courier, in a match which lasted two hours 42 minutes and which ended in the early hours of Tuesday. Muster received treatment for shoulder and hip soreness and hlisters on the feet during his 6-2, 3-6, 7-6, 6-3, vic-

Age provided some protection against the heat and certainly did not stop 16-year-old Martina Hingis in her drive to become the youngest-ever Grand Slam champion. She survived a first-set scare to beat Romania's Rurandra Dragomir 7-6, 6-1.

"I just wanted to win this game and I was just so nervous. I don't know why." Hingis said. ment and there is a little chance - well, there is a hig chance to win.

Results, Digest, page 21

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one in Hampshire is fig-ment of imagination (8)

clusion (6) 14 Sort out reportedly missing handful of digits (10) 18 Exposing us when subject to a Wagner work (10) 22 Note metal tag attached to young bird (6) 23 Prime Minister embracing 4

10 Cry of encouragement

that's listened to (6) 11 Our silly changes will be

without reality (8)

12 Broadcast European con-

about motorist's friend

ACROSS

Game for privatisation? Black pupils in rich group 25 Like a crash course for pi-(3.3)
Give account of how to re- 26

swirling Dee gives one an adventure (8)

Harp is played in area The answer's found empir- 21

ing king taking Ecstasy (61 13

DOWN

Longings not to have Japanese money in pay (8) Car is damaged in beastly place where priest may be found (8) Letter problem's a childish

phase (8) Put cushions on the market which feature in Cape

Canaveral (6-4)
15 They grip the Yorkshire people short of hreath we

hear (8) 16 Kill off saint's mirth (8) 17 Menacinely promise change of heart with a number of commandments

19 A number gain possibly from pain (6) Tomorrow graduate will collect two articles (6) Get in the way of some dim PE department (6)

Kenny Dalglish was overseeing comings and goings at New-

Dalglish has gone ahroad to make his first signing, the Un-der-21 international Raul, who

been paid," the £2m-rated Raul said. "My contract has now been cancelled and I'm free to

who has scored in United's last four games.

football, but Newcastle have no obvious replacements. Sunderland have also been

active in Poland, with manager, Peter Reid, trying to sign the Polish World Cup player. Marek Citko from under Blackhum Rovers' nose. Reid has stepped in for the Widzew Lodz striker who met

The striker, who scored

now Sunderland are prepared to pay the £4m asking price. Gianluca Vialli has put

going away," the former Juventus captain said. "What has happened has been blown out of all proportion because of a couple of phrases a week ago.

"I helieve it is best to reieve it is best to re-

The Hartlepool manager. Mick Tait, who quit over the weekend, was back in charge yesterday after heing persuaded to change his mind. Tait resigned just three weeks after being officially made manager in a dispute over plans to scrap the club's youth policy.